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EU Moves Toward Close Trade Ties With Baltic States

WS2306105594 Tallinn BNS in English 1748 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Brussels, Jun 22, AP—BNS - The European Union's [EU] executive commission said Wednesday it has signed a preliminary free trade accord with Latvia and plans to conclude a similar deal with Lithuania on June 27. A statement from the commission said negotiations with Estonia are also nearing completion.

The agreements with the three Baltic states are part of wider EU efforts to improve economic and political links with the former communist nations of eastern Europe. The EU has already wide- ranging trade accords with the Czech and Slovak Republics, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania.

Last week Ukraine became the first former Soviet nation to conclude such a deal with the EU, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will sign one Friday at a meeting of EU leaders in Corfu, Greece.

The commission said it expects to finalize the agreement with Latvia by Jan. 1. on setting up a free trade zone for industrial goods within four years. During those years, Latvian products will freely enter the 12-nation trade bloc. Latvia may retain some export and import restrictions on some industrial products and farm goods.

The commission hopes to establish a free-trade zone with Estonia by the end of the year. That would overcome a difficulty created by Finland's plans to join the EU on Jan. 1, as Finland already has a free trade accord with Estonia. For Latvia and Lithuania, the accords foresee transition periods allowing them to reach the level of economic development already attained in Estonia.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Jun

LD2306053894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0436 GMT 23 Jun 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 23 ITAR-TASS —The Russian national press today leads with reports about the signing by Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev in Brussels of the Partnership for Peace framework document and of the bilateral protocol "Russia and NATO".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI says in its comment on the event that it took place, symbolically, on June 22, the anniversary of the beginning of the Great Patriotic War which resulted in the split of the world into two opposing camps. By becoming the West's partner in European and global security, Russia cleared yet another barrier on its way to the civilised world community".

"Moscow has secured a special relationship with the West," according to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. In its analysis of the documents signed by the Russian minister of foreign affairs, the newspaper says: "It appears that the key phrase of the (Russia-NATO) protocol is "Russia and NATO agree to prepare an extensive individual programme of partnership which is in line with Russia's size, significance and potential". This means that Moscow has finally got what it wanted and NATO has recognised Russia's "special status".

TRUD stresses that "the move enables this country to take a more active part in European affairs, including defence. By joining the Partnership for Peace programme, Russia avoided the danger of finding itself in a sort of isolation from the further development of military and political cooperation on the European continent".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes: "The most important thing is that the realisation of the Partnership for Peace programme will bridge for Russia and NATO the gap which separated Europe a few years ago. Another bridge will be provided by the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Union, which President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation is due to sign on the Greek island of Corfu, where a summit of the European Union member countries will take place on June 24. When the agreement takes effect, it will open up a new, much more extensive potential for cooperation between Russia and the European Union in the economic and political fields.

Further Reportage on Partnership for Peace Signing

LD2206154294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] After long preparations Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev signed a frame document of the NATO Partnership for Peace program in Brussels today, an INTERFAX special correspondent Dmitriy Voskoboynikov reports from Brussels.

At the same time Kozyrev urged not to make a fetish of any forms of military and political cooperation between the West and the East.

Speaking in the NATO headquarters in Brussels, Kozyrev said that Russia was seeking not only partnership but also development of contacts within the scope of the North Atlantic Council and within the scope of bilateral relations between Moscow, the NATO countries and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council.

Kozyrev said the main point was not to limit cooperation in the sphere of defense for geographical reasons, not to create any new separating barriers on the continent and not to make anyone feel isolated. He stressed that cooperation in the sphere of defense was high on the European agenda.

Kozyrev said that establishment of a unified Europe remained Russia's prior goal and stated that the principles and standards of the CSCE completely conformed with this goal. The CSCE was playing and will play the central role on the continent, Kozyrev said when arguing with those who assigned primary importance to NATO.

The parties circulated a protocol as a result of the talks with the participation of the Russian minister in the NATO headquarters. The protocol said that Russia and NATO agreed to work out a wide particular program for partnership conforming with the scale, capacities and significance of Russia.

Constructive cooperation between Russia and NATO based on mutual respect, mutual benefits and friendship is a key component of security and stability in Europe conforming with the interests of the CSCE other member-states, the protocol stressed.

The protocol said that Russia's signing of the Partnership for Peace program would give new big opportunities for development of relations through practical cooperation in the spheres covered by the frame document.

The parties agreed to continue to develop far going cooperation between Russia and NATO both within and beyond the scope of the Partnership for Peace program, the protocol said.

The protocol stressed that such relations would be developed in order to pursue common goals and to enlarge and enhance relations with all other countries, were not aimed against the interests of any third countries and would be transparent.

Russia and NATO also agreed to continue and to enhance wide dialogue and cooperation in those spheres where, given Russia's status of a great nuclear power, Russia could make a unique and important contribution. This concerned exchange of information on the policy of security in European dimension, political consultations and cooperation in the sphere of security.

Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said in his message to State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin that he believed that this protocol would overlap the scope of the NATO Partnership for Peace program.

Ivanov stressed that since the NATO leadership had decided to sign the protocol, this meant that it recognized the particularity of relations with Russia.

'Partners in European Security'

PM2306085794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Shinkarenko: "We Become Partners in European Security"]

[Text] In Brussels yesterday at the NATO headquarters Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev signed the framework document of the "partnership for peace" program and the bilateral "Russia-NATO" protocol which proclaims at official level the sides' agreement to cooperate in the political, military, and military-technical fields.

Commenting on this event, the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry explained that it is a case of the two programs starting simultaneously. One of them, "Russia-NATO," reflects Russian priorities in cooperation with the alliance while the other, NATO's "partnership for peace," reflects the North Atlantic Alliance's proposals which have been accepted by the Russian side. The two programs, Kozyrev said, do not contradict each other but on the contrary supplement each other.

It is symbolic that the ceremony of Russia's accession to the "partnership for peace" program took place 22 June, on the anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War, one of whose results was the world's division into two opposing camps. Having become the West's partner in European and global security, Russia has thus overcome one more frontier on the path toward a civilized world community. Here, NATO Deputy Secretary General Sergio Balanzino stressed, Russia is the only superpower in Europe and it will continue to retain this status. Without it it is impossible to achieve success in building a new, secure Europe.

Kozyrev Says Russia in No Hurry To Join NATO

LD2206154794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russia does not rule out that at a certain stage it may join NATO, just like any other country, however, it believes it should be in no hurry to do so, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has said. He was speaking at a news conference in Brussels following his talks with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Kozyrev said that "Partnership for Peace" was enough to develop cooperation with that alliance.

Kozyrev said that at his talks with the U.S. Secretary of State six questions were discussed—President Yeltsin's visit to the United States scheduled for late September, the G-7 summit in Naples next month, the UN Security Council's draft resolution on North Korea's nuclear program and situations in Latvia and Estonia, and Bosnia.

Kozyrev said that the sides had proved to have close or identical attitudes to all fundamental aspects of the North Korean nuclear problem. "Our representatives in New York are still to do some editing", Kozyrev said.

As he answered questions, Kozyrev warned that sanctions against North Korea would be inevitable in 30 days unless that country took positive steps to meet the international community half-way. He said North Korea should be helped by convening an international conference.

About the Baltic countries the Russian Foreign Minister said Latvia had adopted laws that do not hold water.

As for Estonia, there might be an early agreement on the withdrawal of troops from that country on the condition Tallinn displayed goodwill.

About Bosnia Kozyrev said that the liaison group was to meet in session on June 28 to produce a plan for a settlement in Bosnia.

He said that the liaison mission would use the stick and carrot policy towards the warring factions.

Holds News Conference on Protocol

LD2206130294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1111 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov and Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels, 22 Jun—At a joint news conference with Andrey Kozyrev, Russian minister of foreign affairs, Sergio Balanzino, NATO deputy secretary general, made public a protocol on the fundamentals of interrelations between NATO and Russia.

According to the document, "Russia and NATO have agreed to have wide-ranging, in-depth dialogue and cooperation in those spheres where Russia can make a unique and important contribution that corresponds to its importance and responsibility as a great European, world, and nuclear state." The forms of cooperation comprise exchange of information, holding political consultations as necessary, and interaction on the whole range of security issues, including those in the sphere of maintaining peace. The sides agreed to prepare a broad individual partnership program that would correspond to Russia's size, importance, and potential.

Comments on New NATO Relations

LD2206132694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1309 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels June 22 TASS—"Russia and NATO have taken the first step towards building up their relations, searching for new formulas of ensuring European stability and security," said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. He addressed a session of the NATO Council devoted to the adoption of documents regulating relations between Russia and the North Atlantic alliance.

Kozyrev pointed out that the preparation of a programme of broad cooperation between NATO and Russia has begun on the basis of proposals earlier submitted by Russia. A special protocol says that this will be a programme, meeting the dimensions and significance of Russia's potential. "An agreement has been reached on a broad, deep dialogue and cooperation in areas where Russia is capable of making a unique and important contribution which conforms to Russia's prestige and responsibility as the biggest European, world and nuclear state," Kozyrev said.

Accepting NATO's proposals, Russia is officially joining the Partnership for Peace initiative. Taking part in its realisation as equal partners are both states which were adversaries in the period of cold war, or neutral countries balancing between the two blocs. Such broad participation creates prerequisites for further evolution of the European situation in the direction of strengthening mutual understanding and ensuring an equal level of security for all countries. For all its importance, "the Partnership for Peace" is only one direction for establishing military-political interaction, Kozyrev said.

Another direction includes activities along the lines of the Council for North Atlantic Cooperation (NACC), whose potential, in Russia's opinion, should be more actively used, in particular, in its peace-keeping activities.

The third direction is the development of a system of bilateral contacts between Russia, NATO and NACC, which will include peace- keeping activities, joint

maneuvers, cooperation in conversion. These directions "fit the framework of the common choice in favour of cooperation and the formation of a really single space of security from Vancouver to Vladivostok," Kozyrev said. In conclusion, the Russian foreign minister pointed out that all efforts should pursue a priority goal—the creation of single Europe. "The key role on the continent is being played and will be played by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). This is where Russia's opinion and the alliance' assessments coincide," Kozyrev said.

Yeltsin in Greece To Sign EU Accord

Departs for Corfu

LD2306050094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0454 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin left for Greece on Thursday morning. He is due to take part in the meeting of the heads of state and government of the member countries of the European Union which is to be held on the island of Corfu. The Russian president is expected to sign an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Union.

For the first time in the history of the European Union, a Russian president will attend its summit, take part in its work and sign an agreement which is designed to bring closer the countries of the once-split European continent.

Boris Yeltsin will also be present at the state dinner which Greek Prime-Minister Andreas Papandreou will give in honour of the heads of state and government of the countries-members of the European Union.

The signing of an agreement with the European Union does not mean for Russia an automatic membership of this prestigious club, Boris Yeltsin said at a press conference in the Kremlin ahead of his trip to Corfu. But it will certainly mark the first step made by the European Community since the fall of the Iron Curtain towards the recognition of Russia as a full-fledged partner in the political and economic spheres.

The signing of the agreement provides for free trade between the European Union and Russia from 1998, if Russia fulfills a number of obligations before its partners. The European Union will grant Russia the benefits now enjoyed by its member countries under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Russia's way towards cooperation with the European Union was and remains far from smooth. Russia was granted the right to sign an accord with the European Union a short time ago after France lifted its objections to the sale of Russian uranium on the external market and President Yeltsin signed a decree allowing foreign banks into Russia. Many more barriers will have to be cleared before Russia becomes a full-fledged participant in the club.

Comments on Agreement

LD2306064594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0525 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 23 June—Boris Yeltsin described the forthcoming signing of the agreement between the Russian Federation and the European Union as a first tactical step by means of which Russia "comes to Europe." Flying to Greece today, where a sitting of the European Union will take place, Boris Yeltsin told journalists with satisfaction that henceforth discriminatory measures vis-a-vis Russia "when we were not given quotas for the export of goods have been overcome."

In the Russian President's view, the agreement between the Russian Federation and the European Union notes the transitional nature of the Russian Federation's economy. The President added that in the United States the transitional nature of the Russian economy has not yet been recognized and therefore for the time being obstacles for Russian goods have not been abolished. The President said that the agreement would create a favored treatment for Russian goods in Europe. It could already be said now that the new parameters of cooperation and partnership will make it possible to expand the export of goods from Russia to Europe.

First of all Boris Yeltsin stressed that the Agreement specifies "how much uranium and aluminum Russia will be able to sell on the European market." "Previously we were not allowed into Europe with these commodities". In this respect the President regards his visit as extremely useful for the Russian economy.

Comments on Most Favored Nation Status

LD2306074494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] [Announcer] Russian President Boris Yeltsin flew from Moscow to Greece today. He will attend a meeting of heads of state and government of the European Union on the island of Corfu.

[Correspondent A. Dubnov] Before leaving for Corfu Boris Yeltsin answered questions from journalists on relations with European countries. According to the president, there was discrimination against Russia in earlier times, quotas for our goods were limited and our foreign economic proposals were ignored, but now there is a whole package of proposals with specific dates and figures. Boris Yeltsin noted the European community had recognized the fact that there was a transitional economy in Russia while the United States had refrained from recognizing this.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] A most favored nation status in trade has been given to Russia in Europe. This is very important, too. Russia is only gaining from this. Finally, this is, perhaps, the first practical step by which Russia truly enters Europe and deservedly becomes a fully-fledged European country. [end recording]

Comments on U.S. 'Discriminatory Measures'

LD2306102794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0952 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov, Vladimir Malyshev, and Yuriy Malinov]

[Text] Kerkyra (Corfu), 23 Jun—As soon as Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived on the Greek island of Kerkyra (Corfu) today, he told journalists at the airport that he was in a good and well- disposed mood.

Answering a question from ITAR-TASS about the significance of the forthcoming signing of an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Union, Yeltsin stressed that this document "signifies the unblocking of Russia." He noted that there really had been discrimination against Russia, and Europe would be the first to "unblock this situation."

The Russian president recalled with regret that the United States' discriminatory measures against Russia were still in force. Among other things, the so-called Jackson-Vanik amendment still applies.

Deputy Minister Previews Signing

LD2206160494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] On Thursday morning, President Yeltsin is to fly out to Greece to attend the meeting of the European Union leaders (June 24 and 25). At 10:00, Friday, he is expected to sign the agreement on partnership and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union in St. George Church in the island of Corfu.

Russia's Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations told Interfax that the agreement was ready for signing. In the evening June 23, after the final coordination of the text printed in the 10 languages of the signatory states, this document will be initialled by the leaders of the delegations involved in the talks.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Georgiy Gabunia announced that the package of the agreement-related documents consisted of about 100 pages, including the joint declaration and exchange letters.

He also said that according to the agreement, the European Union would not consider Russia to be a country with a state-controlled trade system, but a state with a transitional economy.

The Ministry's leading expert Maksim Medvedkov told Interfax that the agreement had been drafted during intensive talks which continued for two years. He also said that serious problems had been caused by the European Union's reluctance to ease the access of Russian goods to its markets, and by disagreements over Russia's uranium exports and the procedure of the European Union banks' work in Russia. "These problems have been solved on the whole," he said.

IF Note: The draft agreement provides for the mutual observance of the basic GATT principles with a few exceptions reserved for the nuclear materials on which a separate agreement will be concluded in 1997. As to the European Union's banks, according to the reached compromise, the five banks which have been granted the permit to deal with Russian residents, but which have not used this right given the Russian president's decree on limiting foreign banks' operations (November 1993), shall have their rights restored. The rest of the banks will carry out limited operations during a lengthy transitional period. For instance, the maximum share of foreign capital in the Russian banking system will be limited to 12 percent. The number of foreign banks' branches will also be limited.

Medvedkov said that the agreement on partnership and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union set forth the terms for the Russian economy's gradual integration with the European economic system. It envisages a gradual implementation of the principles of freedom of trade, services and the movement of capital, and of the establishment and operation of companies. The most favored nation status will be granted on a mutual basis.

IF Note: The European Union is Russia's biggest economic partner. It accounts for 35 percent of Russia's trade turnover with foreign countries and 36 percent of the Russian exports.

Official on Possible Expansion of G-7 to G-8

LD2206162694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by correspondents Igor Porshnev, S. Kolosova, and others]

[Text] If in terms of politics the Group of Seven has grown into a Group of Eight, in economy this is going to happen only when Russia actually becomes an inseparable part of the international economic system. This was stated in a Wednesday interview with Interfax by Sergey Chestnoy who is in charge of economic cooperation with G7 at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

He said an economic G8 is out of the question now because Russia is not a full member of the GATT or the OECD. Neither should it be forgotten that Russian economic reforms have still a long way to go, Chestnoy said.

The diplomat believes the economic G7 can expand to G8 in the foreseeable future. "If everything goes O.K., such a transformation is possible already in three years", he said.

The official told Interfax that on July 9 the Naples summit is going to discuss economic matters. On the following day it will be joined by President Boris Yeltsin and focus on political problems, in particular the situation in Bosnia, Iraq, the Korean peninsula and Southern Africa.

Chestnoy also said that after the political debate the leaders of eight countries will focuss on the situation in Russia and the progress of reforms. At the end of the meeting the Italian representative chairing the meeting is going to make a political statement on behalf of the rest stating the main points of the debate, the diplomat reported.

Chernomyrdin Washington Trip Previewed

PM2206171594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Half the Russian Government Has Moved Temporarily to Washington"]

[Text] Washington—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has arrived in Washington to sign agreements which have already been prepared with the Americans, to try to smooth over differences in other treaties where possible in one and one half days of strenuous work, and to give personal encouragement to the Russian soccer players before their next match.

But there is one more point in the program for his U.S. visit. At breakfasts and lunches in a narrow circle to which the press will not even be allowed to come close, the most informed members of the U.S. Government will listen eagerly to the Moscow guest's answers in the hope of learning what is actually happening in Russia.

In a half-hour meeting with President Bill Clinton scheduled for Thursday Chernomyrdin's assessment of the "current moment" will take no less time than Russia's application to join the "seven," Kim Il-song's bomb, or problems of friendship with NATO. The main thing is the economy. On the eve of Viktor Chernomyrdin's arrival several respectable newspapers have published items which say for the first time that it is quite likely that the Russian recession is close to an end and Russians will start to live better. It is important for Chernomyrdin to place the correct emphases, to maintain faith in the Russian reforms, but to avoid exultation which naturally makes creditors anxious to get their money back.

This is the third session of the "Chernomyrdin-Gore" commission, named for its two cochairmen. The U.S. vice premier's duties are of a strictly protocol nature while our premier is still the all-Russian head of enterprise. That reflects the two sides' approaches. The U.S. Administration has virtually exhausted its potential for giving us money. The verbal resources with which the administration, to give it its due, has done everything to attract its businessmen by speaking highly of Russia's boundless resources, are also on the verge of depletion. So Washington is interested in a selfless, platonic exchange. Premier Chernomyrdin, concerned with problems simply unknown to his partners, is still worried about the eternal question: What will they give?

They will give what they promised, but no more than there is. The administration does not have that much at its disposal: space, nuclear power, environmental protection. Joint Russian-U.S. committees and commissions have long been wandering around all these glades and there is much here which is already well trodden. Anything new comes hard. A treaty on the use of the Sakhalin island shelf, the so-called "Sakhalin-2," was expected. But instead of the treaty there will be a joint statement whose commercial value may only emerge at some time in the future. And may not emerge at all.

Actually, the latest helping of treaties on space and rockets will be signed. Fierce competition is under way to take part in the world telecommunications system and our specialists are rushing to extract as much benefit as possible from the fact that we still make quite good rockets.

But the agreement on halting plutonium-producing reactors will very likely not be signed although congratulations on the subject have been heard since late March. But money is louder than applause. The Russian side claims that the stopping of the reactors is in the interests of the world public for which the public should pay. The United States, guessing by some seventh sense that it is once again a case of dollars from its budget, does not object to raising the issue, but says there is no money.

At a preliminary press conference a spokesman for the prime minister's apparatus noted that "half the government is moving to the United States." He has in mind the fact that Viktor Chernomyrdin is accompanied by six leading ministers for whose transportation a whole two aircraft were required. Russian soccer fans will probably approve the arrival of both aircraft in Detroit, where we play Sweden on Friday. It is planned that Viktor Chernomyrdin who in general does not go to soccer matches ("because of a lack of time") will on this occasion visit the locker room and give our professional soccer players additional encouragement. To judge by their game with Brazil only a presidential decree will help here.

Actually, Bolivian President Sanchez de Lozada, a long-standing and passionate fan, did not enter the locker room on the eve of the first match of the championship

in which the national team he worships was taking part. Either they did not let him in or he was shy.

As for Premier Chernomyrdin he will go, his staffers report, to congratulate the players after the match—if they win. If they lose the cortege will go straight from the rostrum to the airport to return to Moscow on Saturday morning.

The Russian premier will spend all the first half of the day at the Chicago headquarters of General Motors. The Russian automobile association plans to create capacities for the production of new passenger vehicles in conjunction with Opel, General Motors' European junior partner.

Formally the deal is being concluded between private enterprises and the government leader would seem to have nothing to do with it. But the Western partners realize how dependent any Russian enterprises remain on top officials. So his hosts will await with practical interest V. Chernomyrdin's reaction to one of the new models. The premier will test its quality in motion, getting behind the wheel himself.

Chernomyrdin, Gore Toast Sakhalin-2 Gas Project

LD2306101694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0326 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Borisenko and Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[Text] Washington, 23 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore—cochairmen of the Russian-American commission for economic and technological cooperation—marked the signing of the project to develop deposits on the Sakhalin shelf with a toast to its success. The document, known as Sakhalin-2, was signed by Yuriy Shafrannik, the Russian minister of fuel and power engineering, (D. Daffind), president of the Sakhalin Energy Investment Company, and representatives of the American and Japanese firms which formed a consortium to implement this major project which promises significant economic benefit to the Russian Far East.

"The Sakhalin-2 project can truly be called crucial if one assesses it from the point of view of its underlying principles," Yu. Shafrannik said in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "For the first time, work on a Russian shelf will be carried out by a consortium of Western firms. The project is very advantageous for Russia. Almost 70 percent of subcontracting work will go to Russian firms and also 25 percent of profits. This is a very serious project. If, after such a first step we are able to take another—and of this I am certain—then there will be capital investment in this region in the course of the next year and one can expect serious changes in the region of the Far East within the next few years." In particular, the minister said, some of the gas extracted on the Sakhalin shelf could be sent to the mainland.

"This project is really crucial," Ronald Brown, U.S. Secretary of State for Trade, said in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "I hope that its implementation will stimulate development of trade between our countries and open up opportunities for capital investment. This project is indeed important and, what is most important, it has gotten off to a good start."

Chernomyrdin Visits Russian-U.S. Commission

LD2206201994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Here is our correspondent Yuriy Rostov on the Russian premier's visit to the United States.

[Begin Rostov recording] Today Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, who arrived in Washington yesterday, took part in the work of the American-Russian commission for economic cooperation. Chernomyrdin and Vice President Gore are co-chairmen of that commission. Today the sides completed discussion of several agreements, including the 400 million dollar contract on the joint exploration of space and the Sakhalin-2 agreement. The latter document envisages the development of yet another sector of the Sakhalin oil-bearing shelf. American and Japanese banks are planning to invest ten billion dollars in the project. The profit over a period of 25 years will be be 50 billion dollars.

Last year the session of the Russian-American commission was to have been held in June too, although it took place in September. This time the session of the commission has started on time, just like today's meeting at the U.S. Congress. One of the most important subjects discussed was the need to finally remove the restrictions in U.S. legislation on trade with Russia which has not been communist for a long time now. [end recording]

Joint Russia-U.S. Appeal to DPRK: Sanctions in 30 Days

LD2206152694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1347 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels, 22 Jun—Russia and the United States have today practically agreed the text of a draft UN Security Council resolution in connection with the nuclear problem of the DPRK. This was announced by Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher, the heads of the foreign policy departments of the two countries at a news conference in the Russian Embassy in Brussels after the talks, which were held here.

This joint initiative was discussed on the instructions of the presidents of Russia and the United States, Kozyrev

said. As a result: There has occurred a drawing-together and coincidence of approaches on all the fundamental questions, and only the drafting work remains for the representatives of the two countries in New York.

The main aim of this initiative, in the words of the Russian minister, is to get the DPRK to observe the regime of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. The draft resolution will clearly indicate that sanctions against Pyongyang are inevitable in about 30 days if the DPRK does not take positive steps. To help it take such steps and open the doors to positive movement, Kozyrev said, it is proposed to use the opportunity of the conference and already in the very near future, send the relevant invitations. In this way, these 30 days should be used, including by means of convening the conference, in order to avoid sanctions which, of course, are an extreme means.

Kozyrev, Christopher Comment on Bosnia Talks

LD2206195994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1546 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels, 22 Jun—The heads of the foreign policy departments of Russia and the United States noted the importance of the work carried out by the contact group that is drafting proposals on the territorial demarcation in Bosnia. According to Warren Christopher, the group should meet again on 28 June. He declared Washington's willingness, if necessary, to hold an additional meeting at the ministerial level, attended by Russia, the United States, and five countries of the European Union.

Christopher said that the international community's influence on the parties to the conflict to prompt them to accept the peace proposals should be based on something like the "carrot and stick" principle. For his part, Andrey Kozyrev made it clear that work was proceeding within the contact group on a list of inducements and sanctions, for cases in which both of the antagonists did not agree to accept the settlement plan, or if just one of them proved to be uncompromising.

The ministers gave different answers to a question about abolishing sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro if the Bosnian sides agreed to the proposed plan. Kozyrev replied affirmatively, while Christopher said that it would depend on the contact group's recommendations.

Churkin Warns of Large-Scale War in Former Yugoslavia

LD2306100394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0924 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov, Vladimir Malyshev, and Yuriy Malinov]

[Text] Kerkyra (Corfu), 23 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin warned today of the danger of a "big war" breaking out in former Yugoslavia. Churkin, who is accompanying Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, arrived on this Greek island from Brussels today. The two men are to attend the signing of the agreement on partnership and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union.

It seems to me, he said in response to questions from ITAR-TASS, that during July the peoples of former Yugoslavia, especially Bosnia, have their last chance to reach agreement. If this chance is missed, a big war will result. V. Churkin suggested that this big war could start as soon as the summer ends. He disclosed that proposals for a settlement of the Bosnian crisis which were "unprecedentedly" resolute were about to be discussed. If these proposals are not accepted during July, a great calamity will result, he said.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Latvian Citizenship Law

LD2206191594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1756 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Today the Russian Foreign Ministry made a statement, which says:

"On 21 June 1994 the Latvian Republic's Saeima adopted a citizenship law. In its content, it is an unprecedented legal act, according to which the overwhelming majority of ethnic Russians who reside permanently in that country are in fact deprived of a real possibility of obtaining Latvian citizenship.

The law contains elements of discrimination on ethnic grounds and consolidates the principle of quotas for the naturalization of Latvia's permanent residents that, in general, is to start in 2000. Thus, on the threshold of the 21st century, a state that claims to be democratic and based of a rule of law, has made yet another step towards discrimination in law of hundreds of thousands of residents of the Latvian Republic and formation of a monoethnic state.

Long before the citizenship law had been adopted, by depriving "non-indigenous" residents of citizenship, Latvia started purposeful discrimination against them in the political, social, economic and other spheres by adopting relevant laws and statutory instruments. These include the law on elections to central and local bodies of power, on civil service, on languages, on election campaigning and so on and amendments to the laws on entry and foreigners' stay or on the police. These have seriously worsened the situation of hundreds of thousands of permanent residents, the majority of whom are ethnic Russians, and have created a legal basis for introducing discriminaton on ethnic, language, religious, and other gounds in Latvia.

Latvia has been persistently ignoring the real situation in the country, fundamental human rights documents, the views of international experts, and recommendations by the CSCE high commissioner for ethnic minorities, the Council of Europe, and the calls of some neighboring states concerning the rights of minorities. All this cannot be evaluated otherwise than an open challenge to democratic and humanistic traditions in today's Europe and world.

In this situation the absence of an appropriate international reaction, let alone the acceptance of the country in the Council of Europe, would look as a sign of approval of the Latvian authorities' discriminatory policies and would be tantamount to the lowering of international and European standards in the sphere of human rights.

For its part, in accordance with UNGA resolution no. 48/155 "The situation in the sphere of human rights in Latvia and Estonia" and in connection with the further deterioration of the situation in the sphere of human rights in the Latvian Republic, Russia will resolutely strive to ensure that Latvia complies with the international obligations it has taken upon itself.

In developing relations with Latvia henceforth the Russian side will take account of the situation that is taking shape in that country following the adoption of the citizenship law."

Deputy Foreign Minister Criticizes Act

LD2206162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By correspondents Igor Porshnev, S. Kolosova, and others]

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov described the citizenship act passed in Latvia as inhuman. He told Interfax that the act turned numerous residents of Latvia into stateless persons, made it impossible for them to become citizens and imposed naturalization quotas.

He said the law did nothing for the image Latvia was striving for itself as a stronghold of democracy.

Krylov said that the act was aimed against the Russian-speaking residents of Latvia. He explained that if it became law, Russian- Latvian relations would deteriorate, the visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to Latvia would most likely not take place and numerous agreements made during the recent visit of Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis to Moscow would be in doubt.

He did not rule out the possibility that Russia would lift Latvia's most favored nation status.

Krylov said he did not believe, however, that the citizenship act would influence the deadline for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia.

He said that Russia intended to raise the question of human rights violations in Latvia in the CSCE and other international organizations.

Details of Russian Transcaucasus Peace Mission

PM2206180094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Paratroopers Named as Chief Peacekeepers in Transcaucasus"]

[Text] The peacekeeping operation which was begun by Russian generals and troops subordinate to them in Georgia and Abkhazia with a reconnaissance and the introduction into the conflict zone of a reinforced engineer-sapper battalion and communications and control subunits, has finally acquired official, legal status. At a session closed to the press, the Russian Federation Council, after hearing a report by Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, ratified the president's edict on Russian Federation participation in reconciling the warring parties.

Now the sappers and communications personnel are to be followed to the Transcaucasus, to the Georgian-Abkhazian front, by paratrooper peacekeepers. But not, admittedly, the officers and men of the 345th Parachute Regiment, as was reported earlier, but their colleagues from Novorossiysk, Stavropol, and Ulyanovsk. The Russian Defense Ministry has accommodated the Georgian parliament deputies who believe to this day that the "fall" of Sukhumi happened purely because of the participation of servicemen from that regiment in the storming of the city and object to their presence on the line of disengagement between the warring forces.

Under the decision agreed by the three sides, the paratroopers of the 345th Regiment will stay at their positions in Gudauta and Sukhumi and will guard the Bombory military airfield and the Moscow Military District Sanatorium, where the Joint Staff of the Russian peacekeeping forces in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone is already stationed, as well as other Russian Army facilities. Major General Vasiliy Yakushev is charged with leading the peacekeeping forces.

The peacekeeping operation (you can see it in diagrammatic form in our drawing) [report is accompanied by a two- by two-inch sketch map captioned "Sketch map of the deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone"] will cover an area in the region of the Inguri river 56 km wide and 78 km long. The dividing line between control zones one and two will run perpendicular to the present line of contact between Georgian and Abkhazian troops along the river.

The actual armed formations of the two sides must be drawn back from the Inguri river 12 km on each side, so that in the event of a strained situation arising, no one can hit his adversary with tank or artillery guns, still less mortar or machinegun fire (dotted line on the map).

The heavy equipment and main forces of the warring parties are to go to specially designated areas (indicated on the sketch map by broken elliptical lines). For the Abkhaz side these are Ochamchira and Meore-Gudava, and for the Georgian side—the eastern suburbs of the cities of Kheta and Senaki (where the equipment and arms are to be sited), as well as the city of Chkhorotsku (for personnel).

In the zones there are five checkpoints for the peacekeeping forces, which will regulate the flow of returning refugees—at the destroyed bridge on the Inguri river, among others—and bar the passage of weapons into the security and arms limitation zones, plus 22 observation posts on the entire territory of the "hot spot" (shown as triangles on the sketch map). Keen attention will be paid to Galskiy Rayon, where the refugees are mainly expected to return. It is proposed to site as many as seven observation posts there.

The headquarters of Control Zone No. 1 will be sited in Gali, and of Zone No. 2 in Zugdidi. It is proposed to leave up to three battalions of peacekeeping forces in each zone. On the west bank of the Inguri they will be composite battalions of the Batumi Motorized Infantry Division belonging to the Transcaucasus Group of Russian Forces.

For rapid reaction to explosive situations and incidents, four mobile groups are being set up, to which 10 helicopters are to be assigned. These groups, consisting of a reinforced platoon, will also monitor from the air the Kodorskoye Ravine zone, which does not form part of the demilitarized area but causes great concern due to the operations of various "independent" armed formations there.

The plan for the conduct of the operation was not only discussed in the Russian Federation Council; the UN mission in Georgia is also familiar with it. It was coordinated with Lieutenant General Sergey Dbar, chief of general staff of the armed forces of Abkhazia, and Major General Guram Nikolaishvili, Georgian deputy defense minister.

Now it is up to the plan's executors. And not only, or even mainly, the Russian peacekeepers. It is a matter of the political will of the Georgian and Abkhazian leadership to resolve contentious problems exclusively by peaceful means.

According to information at our disposal, the sending of the new Russian battalions to the conflict zone and their arrival at Gudauta airfield is planned for 22-25 June. This will require 60 trips by Il-76 and An-22 planes.

The anticipated cost of the peacekeeping operation in Georgia and Abkhazia is 10-11 billion rubles. The officers' and men's pay alone (there will be some 3,000 of them) will require 1 billion every month. At the same time the Federation Council rejected the military people's proposal that Russia's "blue helmets" be paid for as a separate item in the state budget. The Defense Ministry will have to pay for everything.

On the first day of work, Russian sappers have already rendered harmless 117 mines. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

Kondratyev Backs Peacemaking Role, Joint Exercise

PM2206142194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jun 94 pp 1-2

[Article by Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy minister of defense, under "Topical Subject" rubric: "Russia's Peacemaking Role"]

[Text] By virtue of the circumstances that have taken shape, Russia today finds itself at the center of peacemaking activity [mirotvorcheskaya deyatelnost] on the territory of the former USSR. In some "hot spots" it remains the only force that is actually exercising functions capable of ending fratricidal war, separating warring sides, and getting them to sit around the negotiating table.

An analysis of the situation attests to a significant future broadening of the participation of Russian peacemaking subunits on the territory of a number of CIS republics.

The participation of the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, in peacemaking operations is determined by norms of international law, by the UN Charter, by documents of the Security Council and the CSCE, and, with the creation of the Council of CIS Heads of State, by the Commonwealth Charter and the Agreement on Groups of Military Observers and Collective Peacekeeping Forces [sily po podderzhaniyu mira], which were adopted in Tashkent in May 1992. Peacemaking problems were reflected in the Military Doctrine adopted in the Russian Federation Security Council, which noted for the first time that "Russia assists the efforts of the world community and various collective security organs in preventing wars and armed conflicts and in maintaining and restoring peace and, to this end, deems it necessary to have Armed Forces and other troops to conduct peacekeeping operations in accordance with a UN Security Council decision or international obligations."

But the existing legal basis is plainly inadequate. A draft law defining the status, composition, maintenance, and functions of Russia's peacemaking forces has been submitted to the State Duma. The draft law lays down the procedure for providing military and civilian personnel of the Russian Federation to participate in operations to maintain and restore international peace and security and in other kinds of UN peacemaking activity, as well as in the fulfillment by the Russian Federation of obligations adopted under international treaties and agreements, including within the framework of the CSCE and the CIS, as defined in Chapters 6, 7, and 8 of the UN Charter.

Following the State Duma's adoption of the law, it is necessary to draw up and adopt the Concept of Russia's Participation in Peacemaking Activity and the Statute on the Russian Federation's Peacemaking Forces. At the same time two or three motorized rifle divisions of the Ground Forces must be transferred to the authorized organizational structure of the military contingents participating in peacekeeping operations. It is proposed, starting in 1995, to relieve the airborne troops of peacemaking tasks. Peacemaking force subunits must be brought up to full strength, have modern, air-transportable hardware with high off-road capabilities, be equipped with light armament and means of communication and control, and be supplied with the necessary resources to cope with autonomous actions lasting two or three months. This hardware must not count toward the maximum levels restricted by treaty obligations in the European part of Russia.

The Russian Ministry of Defense is prepared to take on the tasks of manning, training, and equipping military contingents of peacemaking forces and military observers and supplying them at permanent deployment garrisoning locations, but questions of funding are very acute.

There are several reasons for this. First, legislation on peacemaking has not been created in any of the former republics of the USSR. Second, despite the protocol "On the Manning, Structure, and Material, Technical, and Financial Support of the Group of Military Observers and Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the CIS," which was signed by the CIS heads of state in May 1992 and which provides for these costs to be borne from contributions from the CIS states and the sides involved in a conflict, Russia has received nothing.

Third, we consider it logical that the world community, in tending toward the recognition of Russia as a guarantor against the escalation of conflicts to the scale of regional wars, could express this support not just in words but also by partially covering Russia's expenditure on peacekeeping operations in the near abroad out of UN funds. Or else offset this expenditure against Russia's subscription to the United Nations for the same purposes. During 1993 alone more than 26 billion rubles [R] was spent out of the Defense Ministry's budget on the peacemaking activities of military contingents. It is perfectly obvious that Russia's peacemaking forces must be funded out of the federal budget under a separate subhead, while expenditure connected with peacemaking activity on the territories of the republics of the former USSR must be covered by the CIS states' contributions in monetary or other form on a shared basis.

A few words about the participation of Russian peacemaking forces in the settlement of armed conflicts in the near abroad. In accordance with the bilateral agreement between the Russian Federation and Moldavia [Moldova] "On the Principles of the Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Dniester Region" of 23 July 1992, a contingent of the Russian Federation Armed Forces was formed on a voluntary basis, consisting initially of six battalions, and was sent into the regions of the conflict from 23 July through 31 August 1992. Today the strength of the peacemaking force there has been reduced. Personnel serve in the zone of responsibility between the sides involved in the conflict, which has an overall length of approximately 225 km and a width of between 4 and 15 km, a checkpoint-control regime is being organized, observation posts are being set up, mobile groups are being created to patrol sectors, important installations are placed under guard, and an alert-duty subunit is appointed.

Purposeful and concerted actions have resulted in the stabilization of the situation in the region and control over its development. The blood of peaceful inhabitants is no longer being shed, and the talks process relating to the final settlement of the conflict by peaceful means is continuing, albeit with difficulty. It is clear, however, from a forecast of the development of the situation in the Dniester Region that the withdrawal of our units and subunits of the peacemaking forces appears premature, although the question of a further reduction in the quantity of men and equipment in the conflict zone has already been raised. A final solution to the conflict situation in the region is a matter for the politicians.

In South Ossetia a military contingent of the peacemaking forces was sent into the conflict zone in July 1992 on the basis of "Directives of the Russian Federation Government" in the light of the fulfillment of the Dagomys agreements of 24 June 1992 on settling the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, and it is continuing to fulfill its tasks. A complex situation persists in the region. Deliveries of food and essential goods from Georgia have not been made for a long time. Paper currency has been virtually withdrawn from circulation. The crime situation is deteriorating. The population has been forced to defend itself against robbery and lawlessness. Practically the entire adult male population has weapons.

A CSCE mission is working in the conflict zone to monitor the situation and give some humanitarian assistance. A fragile stability is being maintained in South Ossetia only thanks to the presence of the Russian peacemaking force. If it is withdrawn, the situation could instantly get out of control. The danger of a further explosion of military confrontation has now increased significantly.

Russia's 201st Motorized Rifle Division has been performing peacemaking tasks in the Republic of Tajikistan for approximately two years. In October 1993 it became part of the Collective Peacemaking Forces which had been formed. The division is a deterrent factor in the escalation of civil war and the conduct of large-scale provocative actions on the Tajik-Afghan border. Russia is taking an active part in settling the Armenian-Azerbaijani and Georgian-Abkhazian conflicts. A peacemaking operation began 14 June in the region of the latter.

The performance of peacemaking tasks is attended by daily risk to servicemen's lives and is carried out under conditions of unceasing provocations from both sides. Isolation from the permanent deployment garrisoning locations, the growth of antiarmy and anti-Russian feeling among the local population, and the lengthy stay in a zone of conflict (state of emergency) rightly arouse the concern of servicemen. But the greatest concern is aroused by the peacemaking forces' lack of status, the vagueness of their rights and obligations, and the poor social and legal provision: the low pay and remuneration, poor life and health insurance, and lack of privileges in the provision of housing.

Despite this, today Russia's Armed Forces play the paramount role in maintaining peace and stability and in settling conflicts. But the success of any peacemaking action depends on the military contingent's qualitative training and on careful planning. To these ends we have set up training centers in the 27th and 45th Guards' Motorized Rifle Divisions. But the training facilities do not yet make it possible to fully train personnel. It is necessary to improve them, but again the matter is being held up by funding.

Russia actively participates in theoretical elaborations and consultations on peacemaking activity with various international organizations (United Nations, CSCE, North Atlantic Cooperation Council, NATO, and others), including on a bilateral basis with interested countries. This year it is planned to hold the first Russian-U.S. joint command and staff exercise of the Russian Federation's 27th Guards' Motorized Rifle Division and the U.S. 3d Infantry Division. Their chief aim is to define mutually acceptable approaches to the planning of troop operations and organizing collaboration between units and subunits when conducting a peacekeeping operation. It is also proposed to rehearse questions of troop control during such operations, to work out unified sets of documents and views on operating tactics, and to enhance the subunits' readiness to operate as part of coalition peacekeeping forces in "hot spots."

But the mass media and individual politicians have recently been fueling passions over the upcoming exercise. The polemic is undoubtedly being conducted by uninformed people, for the purpose of misleading public opinion. On 16 March 1994 PRAVDA published the article "Our Strategists Are Too Ingenuous" by Major General Viktor Chudov, retired. The article contains a number of gross distortions. In particular, it maintains that a full division on each side will be involved in the measure. The author casts doubt on the military-political advisability of the exercise and on the whole package of Russian-U.S. relations in the military sphere. The article attempts to link the upcoming exercise to a U.S. desire to introduce its own armed contingent onto Russian soil and to assimilate a new theater of military operations.

The article's author distorted the scale and nature of the planned exercises. It is planned to conduct not a troop exercise but merely a command and staff exercise involving up to 250 people on each side and automotive equipment. The upcoming exercise is regarded as a real contribution by our countries to the preparation and conduct of peacemaking operations. The initiative for holding it came from the Ministry of Defense, and the presidents of Russia and the United States announced it back in September 1993.

Several versions of a command and staff exercise were considered. The U.S. military proposed holding it on U.S. territory, but the U.S. side was unable to take on all the costs, including the transfer of hardware and personnel. Such expenditure was unacceptable to us. A proposal to hold the exercise on FRG territory—the stationing location of the U.S. 3d Infantry Division—did not meet with understanding on the German side. Therefore the territory of the Totskoye Range—the stationing location of the 27th Guards' Motorized Rifle Division—was chosen. This means minimal expenditure for our side—approximately R100 million.

The U.S. Congress is allocating $5 million just to transfer 69 units of automotive equipment and 250 personnel from Germany (city of Wuerzburg).

The U.S. side is prepared to pay for the Russian side's work and services in preparing for the joint command and staff exercise—equipping the checkpoint and the motor vehicle pool, refueling hardware, "damages" to the ecology, etc.—in the sum of R0.5 billion. If the command and staff exercise were held on U.S. territory, our side's transport costs alone would increase by a factor of four or five times.

If we were to abandon the holding of the joint exercise, as individual politicians demand, Russia would not fulfill its promises and would lose the confidence of the world public. And yet the exercises are the most humane and noble.

On the basis of an analysis of the Totskoye exercise and of additional coordination, and given the adoption of political decisions, the next joint command and staff exercise or training session will take place on U.S. territory.

Under conditions wherein the CIS states are pursuing a policy of strict neutrality, displaying no interest in resolving armed conflicts using their own forces, Russia remains the only state with the military and political potential to conduct operations to maintain and restore peace—which it confirms by its practical activity. Russia's peacemaking role is a natural one. For decades the peoples of the former USSR lived as a single family, and a tight knot of interrelations was tied which had both achievements and problems. This was the result of joint efforts by all the peoples and ethnic groups of the USSR who had earlier linked their fate with Russia. It is now the latter's duty to do everything to ensure that the former members of one family are not at odds with each other.

Russia has historically been a guarantor of other peoples' reconciliation and has always come to their assistance at a difficult time. In all conflict situations it has so far been perceived as a kinsman, not as a stranger. It is considerably simpler for it to get to the bottom of what is happening and to influence reconciliation. It directs its main effort into settling crisis situations in regions in direct proximity to its borders, since stability and peace on these territories are of vital importance to Russia and its citizens, 25 million of whom live in states in the near abroad. It was and still is the only force capable of fulfilling these tasks. Life itself suggests that no international organization or group of states will take the place of Russia's peacemaking efforts on the territory of the former USSR.

Kondratyev Leaves for Abkhazia

LD2206124794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The peacekeeping operation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone will start 26 June, Colonel-General Grigoriy Kondratyev, Russia's deputy minister of defense, told INTERFAX.

Kondratyev set off for the region today to take personal charge of the peacekeeping mission. Grigoriy Kondratyev said that five Russian battalions totalling 2,500-3,000 servicemen are being brought in for the operation. According to him, two battalions from Batumi have already started moving with their equipment into the area separating the warring sides.

The deputy minister also said that military transport aircraft and helicopters started loading the personnel and equipment of two battalions of paratroopers today. Tomorrow, that is, Thursday, the battalions from the Ulyanovsk paratroop division will start leaving for the conflict zone.

Belarusian Presidential Candidate Arrives in Moscow

LD2206123494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1016 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun—With presidential elections in Belarus being just a day away, one of the leading candidates Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of republican council of ministers, has arrived in Moscow. A meeting between Vyacheslav Kebich and First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets is on the list of today's activities for Russia's top government officials.

The Russian government office is not saying much about the content of the meeting which took place behind closed doors. One can assert that the Russian Cabinet of Ministers likes one of the election promises of the Belarusian prime minister, namely his intention to introduce "tax holidays" for Russian goods which are not going to be taxed.

It is thought that Vyacheslav Kebich will be received in the Kremlin since Boris Yeltsin made it clear at a press conference on 10 June that Russia is "very much" interested in the Belarus election results. It is obvious who Russia would like to see as the head of Belarus.

Yeltsin Receives Belarus Premier Kebich

LD2206130894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, was held in Moscow today. The meeting focused on issues of intensifying and accelerating the processes of Russian and Belarusian economic integration. During a detailed and friendly conversation, the political leaders exchanged views on the democratic reforms in Russia and Belarus, and on the evolution and future of political collaboration within the CIS.

Lukyanov Comments on Belarus Conference on Cooperation

LD2206121394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] A deputy of the Russian State Duma, ex-chairman of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) Supreme Soviet Anatoliy Lukyanov said he believed that there was no alternative to a renewed Union.

On Tuesday he took part in the meeting in the Belarussian Academy of Geo-Politics which was holding an international conference "Russia and Belarus - the way to the future" in Minsk.

Lukyanov told Interfax that his visit to Minsk was aimed at expressing support to those forces standing for expansion of Russian-Belarussian cooperation and defending the idea of restoration of a renewed Union.

"My visit has absolutely nothing to do with the coming presidential elections in Belarus," Lukyanov stressed.

He said that the mechanism for restoration of the Union was created when 19 communist parties were set up in the ex- Soviet republics. Lukyanov said that the congress of the USSR peoples planned for this September was also expected to contribute to establishment of a mass movement for restoration of the Union.

Lukyanov spoke in favor of participation of Russian and Belarussian parliamentarians in the hearings on the results of the implementation of the Belaya Vezh agreement which will be held in the State Duma Committee on CIS in early July.

Grachev Calls Strategic Nuclear Forces 'Priority'

LD2206124594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the opinion Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, the Strategic Nuclear Forces—the Strategic Rocket forces, the Naval and Air Force strategic nuclear forces—are a realistic guarantee of ensuring Russia's security in modern circumstances and will remain a major deterrent against war in the future. In the minister's opinion, the strategic nuclear forces will be a priority in the formation of the Russian Armed Forces.

State Duma Delegation Arrives in Netherlands 22 Jun

LD2206171794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1522 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Taras Lariokhin]

[Text] The Hague June 22 TASS—A Russian parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Chairman of the Russian State Duma Alevtina Fedulova arrived here on Wednesday to take part in a two-day conference of European parliamentary speakers to begin on Friday. Preliminary consultation within the forum's framework will begin on Thursday [23 June] evening.

Parliamentary speakers of the bulk of East and West European states will take part in the conference to be held behind closed doors. The agenda will include issues of the work of supreme legislatures, parliamntary control, the role of mass media in the democratic society and others.

U.S. Sees Russia as Conduit for Illegal Migrants From PRC

PM2306094194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Andrey Kabannikov: "Chinese Mafiosi Have Begun To Speak Russian"]

[Text] Beijing—U.S. State Department specialists studying the problem of illegal immigration consider that Russia has become a new center for the Chinese mafia's activities. They estimate that around 60,000 Chinese are presently waiting their turn to cross over to the countries of Europe and America from Russia.

But the Americans complain that it is difficult to work with the Russian authorities as the latter show no interest in this problem. Russian border guards are easily bought off and they agree to let illegal immigrants through the border. Nobody wants to be involved in sending immigrants back to China. State Department representatives are going to discuss these problems in the next few days with their Russian colleagues in Moscow.

FIS Chief Primakov Meets With 'Arafat

PM2306104794 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 2

[RIA report: "Primakov Has Met With 'Arafat"]

[Text] Late on Tuesday evening [21 June] Yevgeniy Primakov, chief of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, was received by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The Palestinian news agency WAFA, which is preparing an official announcement on the meeting, reported this yesterday. The Russian intelligence chief arrived in Tunis from Morocco, where he was received by King Hassan II.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Reiterates Refusal To Suspend Crime Edict

LD2306085094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0803 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin today said a firm "no" to the ITAR-TASS correspondent's question about whether the president intends to suspend the edict on fighting banditry after the State Duma so recommended.

At the same time, in the words of Vyacheslav Kostikov, the head of state's press secretary, the Russian president well realizes that "there is a question" about violation of human rights in the edict. That is why Boris Yeltsin 22 June sent a letter to Sergey Kovalev, the Russian federation's plenipotentiary for human rights, instructing him to supervise implementation of the edict on protecting the population from organized crime and promising his personal support in this.

In turn, Sergey Filatov, head of the russian president's administration, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent: "We do not intend to blindly follow the letter of the document, for it is not a dogma. If we see that citizens' rights are being flouted on the basis of the edict, we shall think about adjusting it."

Procuracy To Seek Compromise

LD2306100994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In the General Procuracy in Moscow today, an expanded meeting of the collegium is taking place. It is discussing measures aimed at intensifying the fight against crime. Those taking part in the collegium sitting are the procurators of republics, krays and oblasts, heads of all the federal law enforcement bodies, security councils of Russia, senior staff of the president and the government, representatives of both houses of the Federal Assmebly, and law experts. As ITAR-TASS learned from competent sources, the General Procuracy will also try to stir the participants to seek compromise regarding the enforcement of the president's edict of 14 June, until the legislative bodies adopt necessary laws.

Yeltsin Seeks Human Rights Monitoring of Crime Edict

LD2206123594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1010 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin has asked Sergey Kovalev, the human rights representative who was appointed to that post by the State Duma, to observe the implementation of the decree "On urgent measures to protect the population from gang violence and other manifestations of organized crime", including the examination of complaints from citizens. "I hope that you sympathize with the considerations which forced me to sign the decree. At the same time, I share the apprehensions of the public, the deputies, and your own fears that during implementation of the decree threats to constitutional human rights could arise," reads a letter by the president of the Russian Federation, the text of which was circulated by his press service.

"I believe that until the relevant federal constitutional law has been adopted, the representative for human rights should proceed in his activity on the basis of the principle of Article 15 of the Russian Constitution, according to which the constitution has direct force and is applicable throughout the territory of the Russian Federation," the document notes. "In your work you can rely on the assistance of the heads of constituent parts of the Federation and of the president's authorized representatives."

Presidential aide Georgiy Satarov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that within the next few days Boris Yeltsin will submit to the State Duma a bill on introducing additions and alterations to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedural Code of the Russian Federation in order to bring the decree on combatting gang violence into line with Russian legislation. He is participating in today's meeting of the lower house of parliament together with Aleksandr Yakovlev, the Russian president's authorized representative at the Federal Assembly. Deputies are expected to again express their views on the decree which has met with a mixed reaction among politicians.

Having told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that "Boris Yeltsin does not intend to suspend this decree," Sergey Filatov, head of the president's administration, added that "if violations of human rights are observed in the course of its implementation, adjustments may be made to the document. It is not a dogma."

Signs Edict To Enforce Human Rights

LD2206205894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS - Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Wednesday to enforce human rights guarantees in Russia, the presidential press service said.

For the purpose of ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens provided for by the Russian Federation laws "on rehabilitation of the victims of political repressions" and "on pensions of citizens leaving for permanent residence outside the Russian Federation" the president has instructed the government to approve within the month the following documents:

On return of property illegally confiscated during repressions and payment of compensations, on the procedure

for paying compensations to the victims of political repressions, and on the procedure for paying pensions to citizens leaving for permanent residence outside the Russian Federation.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has been authorised to oversee the implementation of the decree.

Yavlinskiy: Yeltsin Edict Revives Perestroyka

MK2206111594 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 25, 19-26 Jun 94 (Signed to press 21 Jun 94) p A5

[Article by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, State Duma deputy, under the "In the Country" rubric: "Perestroyka Goes On"]

[Text] We have been told: Russia is entering a phase of relative stability. There are no tumultuous political conflicts, nor is there a standoff between authorities, and a treaty on social accord has been signed. But before rejoicing at the "stabilization," it would be wise to think: What is actually being stabilized? And by what methods?

Let us look carefully: The key elements of the old, Soviet system of socioeconomic life still exist and operate. Monopolies and the former structure of production are still in place. Real private property and a competitive environment are lacking. No land reform has been carried out. No democratic procedures of public control over authorities have been worked out, nor has a local self- government system been formed, there is no real division of powers.... The stabilization of such a system is not an asset. It means that Russia will remain an oligarchic and supermonopolized state, only with a new "political superstructure": without the CPSU, but with a distinct criminal tinge.

This system cannot be run by normal, democratic methods. Under Soviet power, the most effective means of government were Politburo decisions. Passed by a narrow circle of people without any discussion in society, without consideration for democratic "convention," they were subject to unquestioning implementation. Unfortunately, it is precisely those decisions that the recent presidential edicts are closely reminiscent of.

In his economic edicts, the president is encroaching on the State Duma's jurisdiction, demonstrating that it is incapable of creating economic legislation on time and that the government is unable to run the economy in a correct and prompt fashion. However, government by decree will hardly succeed, either. When a law is being created, a mechanism for its enforcement must be worked out simultaneously. Here we do not have any mechanism at all. The "infrastructure" for the edicts will be added by the government, and it is anyone's guess how much the ideas they contain may be distorted. Moreover, the edicts, while often expressing correct economic ideas—which are not new, as a matter of fact—nonetheless inevitably suffer from being unfinished, incomplete, not comprehensive. Some of them are really populist in nature. Naturally, cutting taxes is okay, but so far it is only an instruction to the government (to all appearances, only for the next year). Undoubtedly, quotas and licenses should be lifted, to say nothing of benefits. But whom will the president rely on in solving this problem?

Entirely justified fears have been expressed that various political forces may use the edicts as a pretext to crank up tension, hunt for enemies, and indulge in political intrigues. But this is not the main danger; the danger is that there is a clear emphasis on antidemocratic, illegitimate, and even unconstitutional methods of government. The departure from earlier stated principles has culminated in the edict "On Urgent Measures To Protect the Population From Gangsterism and Other Forms of Organized Crime." It violates everything that can be violated: human rights, a number of federal laws, even the Constitution.

Of course, at a time when the people are totally intimidated by rampant crime it is easy to evoke positive emotions by promising tight measures. But everyone must realize: Tomorrow, if not today, he himself may become a victim of legalized lawlessness. Yes, lawlessness, because there is no other name for a situation where it is laid down that crime is to be fought by unconstitutional and unlawful methods. A perfect opportunity for settling scores with rivals and for staging inter-group political showdowns.... It is entirely unclear what will now happen to our courts. How will judges act when they have, side by side before them, the edict and the laws and the Constitution it violates?

However, this scenario was predetermined by the very method of preparing and adopting the Constitution. Was it not clear even at the time that we were in for a struggle against crime? If the Constitution had been discussed in society in a normal fashion, if the professionals had been given a say, would they not have warned that in our conditions 48-hour pre-trial detention is absurd? Then it would not have been necessary to "correct" the 48 hours to 30 days by edict.

Before the very eyes of the entire country the very "letter," not only the much-invoked "spirit of the law" is being violated. Moreover, it is being violated by the sole guarantor of the Constitution—the president. So does the established "system" whose stabilization some are ready to welcome allow itself to be run in this way? It is becoming clear that we did not have profound reform, what we experienced was nothing but perestroyka.

"How can it be that we did not have reform?" advocates of the course will retort. "The market is filled with goods; true, they are very expensive, and more often than not they are not for all...." But nor were they meant for all formerly, and more often than not those for whom they were meant were the same people. "But formerly we did not have any democracy at all...." But it is manifestly clear especially in the light of the recent edict that we do not have it now, either.

So, what's up "in the country" nowadays? For most people it is more of the same.

Draft Criminal Code Provisions Explained

PM2206124794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 94 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Unattributed interview with Sergey Romazin, chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice Administration for Elaboration of Legislation on Judicial Reform and Struggle Against Lawbreaking; place and date not given: "Inevitable, Rather than Harsh Punishment. New Draft Criminal Code Reflects New Crime Situation"]

[Text] Russian citizens have always found it hard to comprehend the winged phrase uttered by the literary hero that the Criminal Code ought to be respected. Even more so in these new times of troubles, when everything at home is topsy-turvy. And especially since the archaic nature, ideologization, and conservatism of the criminal legislation currently in force are obvious to everyone. The attempt to produce a new Criminal Code (two years ago) was successfully thwarted. A fresh attempt is being made now. A working group comprising specialists from the Ministry of Justice and the State Legal Administration and eminent legal scientists has completed its work on the general section of Russia's new Criminal Code.

Working group member Sergey Romazin, chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice Administration for Elaboration of Legislation on Judicial Reform and Struggle Against Lawbreaking, answers ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's questions.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Sergey Borisovich! You must agree that the reality in our country is harsh. Explosions echo in the streets, contract killers operate, all and sundry talk about mafia and corruption. The president's latest edict "On Urgent Measures..." is a kind of line drawn beneath a far from brilliant state of affairs. Will the new Criminal Code provide a kind of panacea against criminal misfortunes?

[Romazin] It is necessary to make this clear straightaway: The general section of the new Criminal Code is the part which formulates the general principles of criminal policy, offers material definition of crimes, categorizes crimes, explains terms like "recidivism" and "organized forms of crime," and elucidates questions concerning the system and categories of punishment, criminal records, and others. The special section of the Criminal Code—which is not yet ready—will cover specific crimes and the punishment for them.

Now let us turn to explosions and panaceas. One of the tasks facing the working group was to bring criminal legislation in line with the criminological realities of today. Of course, these questions will be largely resolved when drafting the Criminal Code's special section.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What is and what is not deemed a crime?

[Romazin] The definition of "crime" is fairly brief: "Any act (whether of commission or omission), prohibited by criminal law and causing damage or threatening to cause damage to an individual, society, or the state, is deemed a crime." Let me draw attention to the fact that this definition already reflects the contemporary hierarchy of values protected by the state from criminal infringements: the individual, society, and the state. This sequence will also provide the foundations on which the system of the new Criminal Code's special section will be built. The following also stems from this definition: People cannot be punished for acts which are rejected by society on moral or ethical grounds but are not specified in the criminal law. The Ancient Roman jurists used to say: "There is neither crime nor punishment unless so provided by the law."

Substantial amendments have been introduced in the Criminal Code's general section on punishment. Censure, the imposition of an obligation to make restitution for any damage caused, and corrective labor have been excluded from the list of punishments. The latter category of punishment is purely Soviet because, until quite recently, we had the socialist idea of "re-education through labor." You have to agree that this is an anachronism in the market era.

The Criminal Code retains forms of punishment like fines, deprivation of the right to hold certain office or engage in certain activity, deprivation of military or special ranks, confiscation of property, and imprisonment.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] How about the death penalty?

[Romazin] The draft's authors failed to reach unanimity on this question. Under the Constitution, the imposition of the death penalty is restricted only to cases involving the commission of especially grave crimes against life. By way of an alternative, it was proposed to altogether abolish the death penalty as a form of punishment and introduce life imprisonment.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] When talking about organized crime, the law and order organs blame the lack of a legislative base for the struggle against it. Does the draft Criminal Code fill these loopholes?

[Romazin] Having worked for more than 30 years in the courts, let me say that all references to the lack of a law in the struggle against organized crime are more myth than reality. Even the Criminal Code currently in force makes it possible to institute proceedings not only against "underlings" but also against the top mafia bosses. As a matter of fact, this should be the topic of a separate conversation. But as regards the draft, let me say this: Staffers of law enforcement organs will be given a clear definition of what constitutes a group of persons conspiring to commit a crime, and the very term of an organized criminal fraternity group will be explained. The struggle against this type of crime will probably be helped by the formulation that all persons participating

in a group crime are equally liable regardless of the function they may have performed, according to previous agreement, during the commission of the crime.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] In other words, henceforth anyone hiring a killer will be held liable for premeditated murder.

[Romazin] Exactly. Moreover, participation in any form of group criminal activity will always attract harsher punishment.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] It is well known that criminality is now "getting younger." Has this trend been taken into account by the draft's authors?

[Romazin] Most certainly. Taking into account the results of age psychology studies and criminological indicators, a standard age of criminal responsibility is brought in at 14 years. At the same time, if a 14-years old adolescent accused of having committed a crime is psychologically retarded, he will be deemed not liable to criminal proceedings.

For the first time, it is proposed to introduce in our legislation a norm imparting legal significance to the fact that a crime has been committed by someone aged between 18 and 20 years. What does this mean? In exceptional cases, taking into account the nature of the committed crime and the specific features of the accused's personality, the court may apply measures of punishment provided for minors against persons who are 18, 19, or 20 years old.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] The press and academic literature have expressed the opinion that it would not be a bad thing to introduce criminal liability for legal persons.

[Romazin] At present only physical persons can be held criminally liable, in other words citizens who have reached a certain age, are mentally healthy, and so on. At the same time, there are frequent situations when criminal liability for any damage caused to the environment or the health of millions of citizens as a result of harmful discharges by industrial enterprises attaches to some "fall guy" (as a rule the shop foreman, shift or section chief, and so on who has been forced to implement an unlawful decision made by the legal person's collegial organ—board of directors, shareholders' meeting, and others—under fear of punishment, dismissal from work, and so on). This is, to use the legal language, an objective imputation. Consequently, a person is sentenced but the crime goes unpunished.

Our authors' collective sees just one way out of this legal arbitrariness: In the event of any act specified by the criminal law, the actual legal person itself will be subject to criminal—and I emphasize: criminal, not any other—liability.

A few words at this point about punitive measures. The draft makes provisions for fines, prohibition to engage in certain activity, confiscation of property, and winding up of legal persons. Let us hope that the fear of criminal punishment will force our firms, joint-stock companies, enterprises, and other organizations to adopt a more respectful attitude toward the law and bring their corporate interests in line with the interests of individuals, society, and the state.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] So, work on the Criminal Code's first section is completed. What happens next?

[Romazin] The draft, whose discussion is not yet complete, will be submitted to the president for onward submission to the State Duma once all remarks and proposals have been summed up. I assume that this will happen this year. There is no room for any further delay—I think that everyone realizes this. Especially today, when State Duma deputies, numerous jurists, and the mass media are perfectly justified in sounding the alarm about divergences between the edict "On Urgent Measures..." and the Constitution.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] One last question. Quite often staffers of law and order organs advocate making the Criminal Code harsher. What is your opinion?

[Romazin] Any professional would confirm that the main point in the struggle against crime is not the harshness of punishment but its inevitability. According to militia statistics, more than 2.5 million crimes are committed each year but only something like 800,000 criminals actually stand trial. Anyone can draw his own conclusions. Nonetheless, I would not say that the draft is all that liberal. Any persistent criminal, murderer, rapist, and anyone who crudely tramples the law is "entitled" to expect harsh punitive measures and look at the draft Criminal Code as quite tough.

At the same time, persons who have committed nonviolent crimes, who have repented for doing so, and who have made restitution for any damage caused, can hope for lenience by the law. Thus, it would be more appropriate to talk not about harshness but about the principle of differentiated criminal liability, which is consistently implemented in the draft new Criminal Code.

Major Anti-Crime Operation Conducted in Moscow

LD2206211994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Our television agency received interesting information today from the public relations center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which we give almost in full.

On 21 June, operatives from the Moscow city directorate of internal affairs—with the support of 20,000 men of the Dzerzhinskiy Motor Rifle Division of interior troops—carried out a citywide preventive operation code-named Hurricane. In 24 hours, the special service visited 689 sites. Of these, 14 hotels, the offices of 232

commercial structures and banks, and four markets were inspected. At 27 parking lots and 43 main vehicle inspectorate checkpoints, 1,053 motor vehicles were inspected.

A total of 2,251 people were detained for investigation. Administrative proceedings have been instituted against 759 of them. The operations of 193 commercial structures have been suspended. A total of 292 crimes were registered, and 219 were solved. Twenty-three previously stolen vehicles were found.

Yeltsin: No Objection to Prolonging Assembly Term

LD2206142194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] "The idea of possibly prolonging parliament's and the president's authorities voiced by Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko is not new," Russian president's aide Georgiy Satarov declared in his interview with INTERFAX. He underlined that a month ago during a meeting between the president and the Liberal Democratic Union of December 12 deputy group of the State Duma, Deputy Irina Khakamada asked Yeltsin about his attitude towards possible prolonging of the parliament's term in office.

In Satarov's words, Yeltsin answered that he does not oppose this "in the case that the State Duma and Federation Council work efficiently."

Satarov also underlined that "this idea was discussed in professional circles long ago."

When asked by Khakamada what is Yeltsin's attitude towards prolongation of his term in office, the latter said: "Do not touch upon the 1996 elections."

At the same time Satarov indicated that he would not interpret these words, he is just repeating them.

As Satarov said, if the idea of extension of the terms in office prevails then the appropriate change to the acting Constitution will have to be adopted by a referendum. However, the issue on a referendum is still open until the State Duma and Federation Council adopts a decree on referendums.

Kostikov Comments on Proposal To Postpone Elections

LD2206194194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1729 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS—Russian presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov described as "interesting, but debatable" Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko's proposal to postpone parliamentary elections.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday, Kostikov said that "the extension of the deputies' mandates and, evidently for maintaining the political balance, the postponement of presidential elections would allow (us) to continue constructive interaction between the branches of power established after the signing of the agreement on civic accord."

He believes that the future parliamentary elections can "make the country bristle up again, whip up tensions and add to the existing contradictions. This would play into the hands of only extremists and impatient politicians."

"Russia is tired of the acute political fever. More than anything else it now needs to preserve peace and conditions for growing the fragile sprouts of civic peace and accord," Kostikov said.

"There is one more aspect to it. We all see how difficult the process of maturing and strengthening political culture in Russia is. It will take more than one or two years to complete it. But at the same time we see that seriously thinking deputies and faction members are exerting considerable efforts in order to fight the inertia of confrontation. We see the gradual normalisation of cooperation between the president and the constructive factions of the State Duma and the Federation Council," he said.

Kostikov believes that the postponement of parliamentary elections could "allow the deputies not only to gain political experience, but, more importantly, to use it for Russia's benefit."

Asked about Yeltsin's possible reaction to Shumeyko's proposal, Kostikov replied that the president is unlikely to announce his position on the issue in the near future. "He values the sprouts of civic accord too much to endanger them," he added.

"This is a complicated, delicate and, I would say, constitutionally contradictory issue. The most reasonable thing we could do is to subject this dilemma to thorough and comprehensive examination and discussion in parties, factions, society and the press. But most importantly, to find out the public mood," Kostikov said.

"In this situation we must act only on the basis of public consensus and accord. Otherwise, the most interesting and constructive idea can prove the opposite," Kostikov said.

Majority Believe Rise of Fascism Possible

LD2206144194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The All-Russia Public Opinion Center held an opinion poll among 1594 respondents on the eve of June 22 which marks the 53rd anniversary of fascist Germany's attack on the Soviet Union. Forty-seven percent of Russian citizens believe that the rise of fascism is quite possible in Russia, while 35 percent have the opposite opinion. Eighteen percent of the respondents were undecided.

Seventy-five percent of those polled said that fascist organizations must be banned and 8 percent that such organizations have the right to exist. Five percent of the respondents think there are no and will be no such organizations in this country. Seven percent of the respondents were undecided and 5 percent said that this problem did not interest them.

Eighty-one percent of those poled believe that June 22 must be declared a day of national mourning and memory for the victims of the War. Seven percent were against this idea. Seven percent were undecided and 5 percent were not interested in the problem.

Moscow Becoming 'Main Center' for Illegal Migrants

PM2206142994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Oleg Zolotov under the "Such News: TRUD and News Agency Correspondents Report" rubric: "'Immigrants' Run Wild"]

[Text] Russia is becoming a center of illegal immigration. According to information at the disposal of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], various international criminal organizations are using our country's territory to get their people into other states. This was reported yesterday at a news conference in the Russian Federation MVD.

Militia Lieutenant General Vladimir Kolesnikov, Russia's chief detective, said that Moscow is becoming a main center where such "refugees" gather from all over the world. Illegal immigrants come to us mainly from Vietnam, Taiwan, and China. Moreover they do not turn to the Russian authorities for assistance but register directly with the UN mission in Moscow—after which it is very difficult to expel them from Russia.

For information: Whereas 530 crimes committed by foreign citizens were recorded in 1992, more than 15,000 were recorded in 1993.

Directive on Social Accord Treaty, Draft Law Plan

PM2206132994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 4

[Russian Federation president's directive no. 282-rp on implementation of social accord treaty followed by "Plan for Preparing Draft Laws Envisaged for Submission by the Russian Federation President to the Federal Assembly State Duma in June 1994"]

[Text] With a view to implementing the Social Accord Treaty:

1. The attached plan for preparing draft laws envisaged for submission by the Russian Federation President to the Federal Assembly State Duma in June 1994 shall be approved.

The Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative in the federal Assembly must agree with the State Duma and Russian Federation Government the procedure for joint work on completing the draft laws adopted for examination by the State Duma.

2. The Russian Federation president's staff must ensure the necessary conditions for the prompt preparation of draft laws according with the plan mentioned in point I of this directive.

The leader of the Russian Federation president's staff must determine the officials personally responsible for preparing the draft laws in accordance with the plan for preparing draft laws envisaged for the Russian Federation president's submission to the State Duma in June 1994.

3. Monitoring of the fulfillment of the plan for preparing draft laws envisaged for the Russian Federation president's submission to the State Duma in 1994 shall be assigned to the leader of the Russian Federation president's staff.

4. This directive enters into force from the moment it is signed.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, 7 June 1994.

Plan for Preparing Draft Laws Envisaged for the Russian Federation president's submission to the Federal Assembly State Duma in June 1994

[The following material is presented in tabular form in the original under the headings "Title of Draft Law," "Deadline for Submission," and "Executor"]

1. Title of Draft Law: On procedure for the adoption and entry into force of federal constitutional laws and federal laws.

Deadline for Submission: 9 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration.

2. Title of Draft Law: On introduction of changes to the Russian Federation law "on the state border."

Deadline for Submission: 10 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration, Federal Border Service-High Command.

3. Title of Draft Law: On jurisprudence in the Russian Federation.

Deadline for Submission: 15 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration, Russian Ministry of Justice, Russian Federation Supreme Court, Russian Federation Supreme Arbitration Court.

4. Title of Draft Law: On the Russian Federation Government.

Deadline for Submission: 16 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration, Russian Federation Government.

5. Title of Draft Law: On the introduction of changes and addition to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic law "on competition and the restriction of monopolist activity on consumer markets."

Deadline for Submission: 17 June.

Executor: Russian State Committee for Anti-Monopoly Policy and Support of the New Economic Structures, Russian Ministry of Justice, Russian Ministry of the Economy, Russian Ministry of Finances, Russian Federation Supreme Arbitration Court, State Legal Administration.

6. Title of Draft Law: On the introduction of changes and additions to the Russian Federation law "on defense" and the Russian Federation law "on military service obligation and military service."

Deadline for Submission: 18 June.

Executor: Russian Defense Ministry, Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, Russian Main Directorate for Operations, State Legal Administration.

7. Title of Draft Law: On appealing against actions by organs of state power and officials.

Deadline for Submission: 20 June.

Executor: Russian Ministry of Justice, State Legal Administration, Russian Federation Supreme Court, Russian Federation Supreme Arbitration Court.

8. Title of Draft Law: On the struggle against organized crime.

Deadline for Submission: 21 June.

Executor: Russian Federation Security Council, Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office, State Legal Administration.

9. Title of Draft Law: On the right to information.

Deadline for Submission: 22 June.

Executor: Russian Ministry of Justice, Russian Federation General prosecutor's Office, Russian Committee for the Press, Russian FSTR [exact expansion unknown, possible Federal Council for Television and Radio Broadcasting], the Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information, the State Legal Administration, the Russian Federation president's legal chamber for information disputes.

10. Title of Draft Law: On the principle for the demarcation of areas of authority and delegation of powers among federal organs of state power and the organs of state power of the Russian Federation components.

Deadline for Submission: 23 June.

Executor: Russian Ministry of Justice, Russian Ministry of Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy, Russian Ministry of the Economy, Russian Ministry of Finances, institute of legislation and comparative jurisprudence, representatives of the regions.

11. Title of Draft Law: On the legal status of foreign citizens in the Russian Federation.

Deadline for Submission: 26 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration, Russian Foreign Ministry, Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service.

12. Title of Draft Law: Russian Federation Criminal Code.

Deadline for Submission: 27 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration, Russian Ministry of Justice.

13. Title of Draft Law: On general principles of the organization of state power in the Russian Federation.

Deadline for Submission: 28 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration, Russian Ministry of Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy, Russian Ministry of Justice, Russian Ministry of the Economy, Russian Ministry of Finances, Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of State and Law, Moscow State University, institute of legislation and comparative jurisprudence, representatives of the regions.

14. Title of Draft Law: On federal organs of executive power.

Deadline for Submission: 29 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration, Russian Federation Government.

15. Title of Draft Law: On the Russian Federation flag.

Deadline for Submission: 30 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration.

16. Title of Draft Law: On the Russian Federation emblem.

Deadline for Submission: 30 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration.

17. Title of Draft Law: Russian Federation criminal procedure code.

Deadline for Submission: 30 June.

Executor: State Legal Administration.

Note:

1. The plan sets a deadline for submitting a draft law to the Russian Federation president by the executor indicated as the first (main) executor.

2. At the same time as the draft law the main executor submits a memorandum on the coordination of the draft (or on differences over it) with the state organs and organizations indicated as co-executors.

3. The co-executors submit their conclusions on the draft laws no later than three days after the day they receive them from the main executor.

4. Responsibility for performing work on the plan for preparing draft laws rests with the leaders of the state organs and organizations indicated as executors.

5. The draft laws on questions of forming federal organs of state power and on political parties are prepared according to a separate plan.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin To Sign Follow-Up Privatization Program

MK2206063094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Post-Check Privatization Draft Program Will Be Submitted to President Friday"]

[Text] A draft state program of post-check [voucher] privatization setting out the rules for denationalization of state property after 1 July will probably be up for President Boris Yeltsin's signature Friday. This has been disclosed by Dmitriy Vasilyev, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property. According to him, an edict setting the state program in motion is supposed to be signed by Boris Yeltsin early next week. Russian Federation Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays stated earlier that some 20 percent of state property is supposed to be privatized for money in the post-check period. By July 1994 70 percent of Russia's property will be in the private sector; 10 percent of state enterprises are not subject to privatization.

'Economic Chaos' Main Cause of Crime Wave

PM2306091194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jun 94 p 2

[Article by observer Aleksandr Golts under the "Topic of the Week" rubric: "Russia Rocked By Criminal Terror. The President's Edict Alone Is Insufficient To Combat It"]

[Text] "And outside the window yesterday they shot...." When a well-known humorist utters this phrase from the stage, the audience remains completely unmoved. Because nowadays there is no satirical exaggeration in this text. Street shootings are an everyday feature of all large Russian cities. People get shot outside your window and mine. And on your way to the store for a carton of milk you have to be prepared to find yourself in the line of fire or to be hit by shrapnel from yet another exploding Mercedes. Criminal terror has literally rocked the country. The only people who can be envied in such a situation are our future homegrown Hammets and Coppolas. If the mafia rampage in America in the 1930's gave writers and directors material for half a century of "gangster sagas," our mafiosi, who have long surpassed their Chicago counterparts, have set up writers and cinematographers for several hundred years to come.

Russian gangsters can feel justified pride. They have become a source of increased concern not only in Europe but across the Atlantic too. Special hearings on organized crime in Russia addressed by CIA and FBI leaders have been held in the U.S. Congress. So it is meaningless simply to say that the federal program for combating crime, supplemented the other day by a corresponding presidential edict, meets the country's vital needs. Let us be frank: Organized crime today threatens not only each and every one of us as individual citizens. It threatens the very fabric of the Russian state. Society therefore requires decisive action from the authorities.

Yet, as soon as it was made public, the president's edict was subjected to fierce and—at least partly—justified criticism from legislators, the press, and experts. It is perfectly clear why. The edict effectively invests the law-enforcent organs with extraordinary powers which cut right across existing legislation. Like many documents in the past, it is written with a view to ideal executors, people with "clean hands and warm hearts."

However, just as any piece of equipment should incorporate a fail-safe mechanism against idiots, so in composing edicts we need, alas, to proceed on the basis of human frailty. I certainly have no wish to cast sweeping aspersions on all those confronting the gangsters in unbelievably difficult conditions. But among law-enforcement officers, as among representatives of any other speciality, there are self-seeking and dishonorable people inclined to break the law. Recent major scandals demonstrate this. And the fact is that that the edict opens up an opportunity for such people to do what they like. Even as ordinary citizens without offices or bank accounts, we can hardly expect to remain unaffected by this. After all, just through a chance conjunction of circumstances you could find yourself in the way of some big shot or minor chief who has the right to hold you in detention for 30 days without filing charges....

Moreover, you cannot help remembering the sad results of the numerous programs and edicts on combating crime which have "surfaced" in the past few years. Everything has somehow or other culminated either in nothing at all, or in the notorious "suitcases" that some politicians at the helm of the battle with the mafia have used to collect compromising material on others.

But, for all the justice of the complaints that have been made, there is another side to the coin. An extraordinary situation (and that is precisely what it is) requires extraordinary measures. Moreover, it is patently obvious that the people attacking the president's edict are precisely those who are in one way or another are responsible for the existing state of affairs. I mean the legislators, the majority of whom actually got into the Duma on platforms of ruthlessly combating crime. But where are the new codes to meet the prevailing situation? Our legislative snail, it seems, is not even crawling along. The president's edict, on the other hand, whether it is good or bad, is effectively the authorities' only real action in this sphere. It is not enough to criticize this edict and the executive: If you do not like the government's program, you should propose your own program of measures, and quickly. It is actually a good thing that the president's edict has provoked a reaction, albeit negative; at least it has pushed the appropriate Duma committees to draw up such a program.

Finally, perhaps the most important thing is what the critics of this document have overlooked. They are not examining it in the context of the president's package of economic edicts. Yet it is perfectly obvious that our crime wave—just like any other crime wave, moreover—was nurtured on the nourishing broth of economic chaos. On the other hand, as one U.S. expert noted, a "historically unprecedented clearance sale" is under way. The property of a vast country is changing owners. This is happening simultaneously with the extremely confused process of privatization itself. At the same time, there is an almost total absence of legislation in the sphere of business, which allows the hopeless debtor to thrive. All this drives our businessmen, who in another situation would be extremely law-abiding, into the arms of the mobsters. If there are no laws, or they do not operate, gangsters altruistically (oh, how altruistically) take upon themselves the role of arbiters in business disputes, and indeed the role of judicial executioners as well.

On the other hand, crime rises like yeast in conditions whereby the population is impoverished and the gap between rich and poor is growing. As far as I understand it, the president's latest edicts, in addition to their main goal of giving impetus to reforms, objectively create an obstacle in the way of the criminalization of the economy. After all, it was not the all-powerful FBI Director Hoover who defeated the mafia in the United States. That was achieved by Roosevelt's reforms, which rescued the U.S. economy from crisis.

If we now managed to create a system of social protection that was in any way effective, it would deprive the mafia of a stream of new recruits. The introduction of elementary order in the finance and taxation spheres, in relations between the state and the enterprises that supposedly belong to it, and in the sphere of export licensing and banking activity should sharply narrow the field of activity for organized crime. It is here, in purging economic relationships of crime, that the highroad in the struggle against crime lies. Certainly not in stepping up repressive measures. What is needed at the moment is some major impetus, some kind of tough shake-up. So as to transform the situation regarding crime in action and not just in words. We would very much like to see the president's edict provide just such an impetus. Meanwhile it is not only journalists and parliamentarians who have reacted to it. Those whom it directly affects—the gangsters—have also responded. A series of explosions has once again rocked the capital. These people still feel themselves masters of the situation. The authorities must make haste to prevent that feeling from becoming a reality....

Unemployment Reaches 10.4 Percent

LD2206115194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] In 1993, the number of unemployed, registered by the Russian employment agencies increased 1.5 times compared to 1992, reaching 7.8 million by the beginning of 1994, which accounts for 10.4 percent of the able-bodied population, says the Russian Central Bank's report to parliament.

The report also says that the growth rate of unemployment was "inadequate to the scope of economic recession." In 1993, the rate of industrial decline stood at 16.2 percent (compared to 18 percent in 1002), says the Central Bank's report.

This document also says that the rate of the decline in the fuel industry has grown two times, reaching 15 percent (compared to 7 percent in 1992).

Agriculture was the most stable of the basic production branches. In 1993, the volume of its gross produce went down by only 4 percent.

The Central Bank's specialists believe that a fall in the efficiency of production was due to the retention of excessive workforce against the backdrop of massive stoppages. As a result, wages increases and rising prices on raw materials became the main factors accelerating inflation.

Unemployment is the worst in the Ingush Republic, and in the Ivanovo, Pskov, Yaroslavl and Volga-Vyatka regions. The Volga-Vyatka Region accounts for more than 10 percent of Russia's unemployed, and for just about 4 percent of the vacancies.

According to the report, unemployment has increased even further. In the first quarter of 1994, the number of unemployed was three time greater than the number of vacancies.

Oil Refineries To Foot Bill for Foreign Firm Services

LD2206142294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Those Russian oil refineries that have concluded contracts with foreign firms to reactivate abandoned oil

wells will have to pay for their services at the expense of their export revenue under main quotas.

A reliable expert at a Russian oil company told the Oil Information Agency the decision was made at one of the recent conferences of the leaders of the Fuel and Energy Ministry (Mintopenergo).

Mintopenergo argues that it has "no chance of giving those enterprises breaks or additional export quotas to pay for the services of foreign firms." The ministry has obliged the managers of oil enterprises to take measures to reduce oil well repair costs. At the same time such oil companies such as LUKoil, YUKOS and Rosneft have been asked to present their proposals for government support for oil and gas producers in paying their debts to foreign firms conducting oil and gas well repairs.

So far 25 foreign companies have carried out major repairs and maintenance under 46 contracts on more than 3,300 wells, which have produced an additional 15 million tonnes of crude. To pay the foreign firms for the work done Russian oil producers exported 3.3 million tonnes of crude under additional quotas in 1993. This year three million tonnes will be exported for the same purpose under the main quotas.

Repayments to Foreign Creditors in 1993 Reported

LD2306105894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0942 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] In 1993, Russia repaid about $3.6 billion to its foreign creditors, and received $1.5 billion from its debtors, according to the Central Bank's report for 1993, submitted to the State Duma.

As of January 1, 1993, Russia owed foreign creditors $74.6 billion. The spending on servicing the foreign debt in accordance with the schedule, coordinated with the creditor-countries, amounts to $40.7 billion, which is three times greater than the current credit balance. Out of this sum $17 billion (including interest) should have been repaid in 1993; $9.7 billion is the deferred 1993 payments and $14 billion—overdue payments. In real terms, Russia could repay only $2.5 billion in 1993.

The report also says that in 1993 Russia succeeded to persuade the Paris Club to transform part of its foreign debt. It reached the agreements on deferring the repayment of DM [deutschmarks] 8.5 billion to Germany, $1 billion to the U.S. and FRF [French francs] 1 billion to France. Depending on the type of the credit, the deferment will range from seven to ten years, plus a period of grace of two to five years.

In 1993, import tariffs of about 2.5 trillion rubles were transferred to the federal budget instead of the estimated 4.5 trillion rubles, while revenues, gained from centralized exports, slightly exceeded 6 billion rubles. The report says that in 1993 the hard-currency balance in the Russian banks increased by 25 percent, while Russian residents' assets in foreign banks increased 2.8 times and amounted to $25 billion by the end of the year.

Gerashchenko Foresees No Upsurge in Inflation

LD2306104894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0943 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun (BUSINESS-TASS)—Russian Central Bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko believes that one should not expect an upsurge in inflation in Russia during the second quarter of this year.

A rough analysis of the economic situation, he said today, shows that the government guidelines on money supply for the second quarter will be observed. According to available information, over the first four months of this year, the average monthly growth rate of the money supply was 10 percent while growth in cash supply was 13 percent, which is within the established targets.

Viktor Gerashchenko was giving a report on the results of the Russian Bank in 1993 and current tasks at a conference with heads of the main territorial directorates (national banks). The main aim of the conference, in which representatives of the State Duma and of the staffs of the president and government of the Russian Federation are also taking part, is to discover the main problems in the work of the Central Bank system and to define solutions to them.

Law Sets Ceiling on Foreign Borrowing, Lending

PM2306100794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Federal Law No. 6-FZ signed by President Yeltsin and dated 17 June 1994: "On the Ceiling for Russian Federation State Foreign Borrowings and on the Ceiling for State Loans Granted by the Russian Federation to Foreign States in 1994"]

[Text] Article 1. The ceiling for Russian Federation state foreign borrowings in 1994 is to be set at $4.7 billion.

Article 2. The ceiling for state loans granted by the Russian Federation to foreign states in 1994 is to be set at $400 million.

Article 3. This federal law comes into force from the moment of its publication.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin.

Moscow, the Kremlin

17 June 1994

No. 6-FZ

Military Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Use of Border Troops

LD2206210694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on Russian servicemen as border troops taking part in work based on the international legal demarcation of the state border of the Russian Federation. This has been reported by the president's press service. In accordance with the document, border troops engaged in this work are being sent to carry out their military service to a department of the international legal demarcation of the state border, which is being set up within the Main Command of Border Troops. The decree provides for measures for the social protection of the servicemen during their transfer to the new department.

Yeltsin Observes Strategic Missile Exercise

PM2206183494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "On Land, in the Air, and at Sea the Supreme Commander in Chief Tests the Nuclear Forces"]

[Text] On Wednesday President Boris Yeltsin supervised full command headquarters exercises on command and control of the Strategic Nuclear Forces, which were conducted by the Russian Defense Ministry on 21-22 June.

The supreme commander in chief's visit to the building in Arbatskaya Square and the General Staff Central Command and his presence at the very intensive training session for alert-duty personnel, working with headquarters and main commissariats of the Strategic Missile Forces, Navy, and Air Force scattered all over Moscow and Moscow Oblast and their military units in the North and in Siberia, ended with dummy launches of three strategic missiles. His visit to the military was the first occasion in the history of our state when the leader of the country has personally seen how and in what actual situation the decision to use nuclear missiles might be formulated.

Command headquarters exercises on strategic nuclear forces command and control are traditional in all countries possessing these weapons. They are conducted at least two or three times a year. At the end of May, for example, a strategic offensive forces training session took place in the United States and a Minuteman-3 ICBM was launched.

The Russian president's presence at the routine command headquarters exercises of the Strategic Nuclear Forces has nothing to do with saber-rattling or with demomstrating nuclear might on the eve of the meeting of the heads of the eight leading world states on the island of Corfu and in Naples, your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told at the Defense Ministry. It is merely connected with the new political, military, and military-technical situation following the signing of Russia's agreement with the United States and Britain on not aiming ballistic missiles at one another.

On 30 May we stated that our strategic missiles are on "zero" elevation. So Boris Yeltsin has to know how the leaders of the strategic nuclear triad would act in a hypothetical dangerous period and how quickly and accurately they would be able to aim Russian ballistic and cruise missiles in the required direction.

Journalists notified of these exercises by ITAR-TASS and INTERFAX reports waited to greet the president outside the General Staff building, but he did not come out to address representatives of the press. But the exercises passed off, according to my information, without any hitches.

According to confidential information in my possession, several divisions of the Strategic Missile Forces' RS-12M "Topol" mobile ground system participated in the exercises. Some of them carried out maneuvers in the forest near Novosibirsk, and one, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Sergeyev, went to a prearranged spot in the Plesetskiy test range in Arkhangelsk Oblast and launched a missile in the direction of the Kura test site in Kamchatka. The division fired from a regular launcher a missile that had been placed on alert duty back in December...1984.

So we were able to check the reliability and technical readiness of these missiles for combat operation, I was told at the Strategic Missile Forces Main Staff, and, at the same time, to train officers, who now have a rare opportunity during their period of service to launch a real strategic missile.

At the same time as the "Topol" was flying to Kamchatka a group of Tu-160 strategic bombers was in the air above Russia. On a command from the Air Force central command and the General Staff central command the crew headed by Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Danilchenko launched a long-range cruise missile. A Northern Fleet nuclear-powered missile-armed submarine [atomnyy podvodnyy raketonosnyy kreyser] commanded by Captain 1st Rank Aleksandr Zheltyakov, on alert duty in an area of the Barents Sea, launched a ballistic missile in the direction of the test range on an order from Moscow.

All the missiles carried dummy rather than nuclear warheads, of course.

The fact that the full command headquarters exercises on Strategic Nuclear Forces command and control and the launching of three strategic missiles coincided with 22 June, a sacred date for most Russian citizens—the 53d anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War—was pure chance, I was told by the military. According to the schedule approved back at the end of

last year, the exercises were to have started a day later, but it was decided to change the date at the president's request because he was flying to Corfu.

Finally. Comparisons are odious, but in 1799 a Russian-Turkish squadron commanded by Russian Admiral Fedor Ushakov stormed the island and fortress of Corfu, which was occupied by the French. Russia's military success served to strengthen its international authority and was the foundation for its new relations with the states of Europe.

Two hundred years on, on the eve of the meeting in Corfu with the heads of the leading states, Colonel Boris Yeltsin, supreme commander in chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, sent a Black Sea Fleet squadron to the island's shores and tested the combat readiness of his Strategic Nuclear Forces by launching three strategic missiles. But it is clear today that military success is not going to restore our state's former authority without victories in the economy, of course.

Further on 'Topol' Training Launch

LD2206162494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a special report from the town of Plesetsk on a command and staff military exercise. As we have already reported, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev monitored [kontrolirovali] the exercise.

[Correspondent Mikhail Zotov] During the command and staff exercise of strategic missile troops in the area of test range No. 53 in Plesetsk today, a training launch of the Topol strategic intercontinental solid fuel missile was carried out. Its projected target area was Kamchatka. Adjacent countries were informed about the planned launch, and the flight of the missile was tracked by nine ground radars, which transmitted the data to a computer center in Plesetsk. The Russian defense minister and the commander in chief monitored the exercise.

In the opinion of military observers, the 100-tonne, RS-12M Topol launcher has shown once again the reliability and high quality of operation of all the systems and of the missile launch crew. Despite the fact that the strategic missile troops are experiencing many of the problems that are characteristic of the Army, the strategic missile troops still remain a reliable guarantor of Russia's security and independence.

The number of training launches, however, is dwindling with each passing year. The families of the servicemen who have decided to give up the difficult job of officer in the Russian Army are leaving the garrisons. For the time being, a few 35- or 40-year-old officers, who have not given up the protection of Russian borders in a difficult moment, ensure the combat training of missile troops.

Made-to-Order Guns Augment Illegal Small Arms Trade

PM2206144394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 4

[Article by Vasiliy Fatigarov of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and Aleksandr Mukomolov of the Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service Public Relations Center, under the rubric "Crime Report": "Submachine Guns Made by Crooks..."]

[Text] It is no longer all that difficult to equip yourself with a factory-made weapon nowadays if you want one and you have the cash. Even "private gunsmiths" are not out of work. Custom-made weapons are in ever-increasing demand among the compatriots of Don Corleone....

But in the opinion of Lieutenant Colonel of Militia Viktor Golovanov, deputy chief of the Moscow Criminal Investigation Department, it is too soon to talk about large-scale underground manufacture of firearms. In the main what we are talking about here is small-caliber hand guns, which are not difficult to make. In the capital this year more than 10 people have been detained carrying such guns in their pockets. Furthermore, home-made guns of this kind have been encountered before.

But attempts to make serious "pieces" have been noted. For example, at the Krasnogorsk Plant, which produces the well-known Zenit cameras, three "craftsmen" manufactured revolver parts which they then assembled at home. They worked this way for over six months. The creative endeavors of the Krasnogorsk Kulibins [reference to self-taught Russian engineer] were thwarted when the murder of a paramilitary security forces member was being investigated.

Also in 1993, counterintelligence agents became interested in the activity of a small enterprise housed in the workshops of the Varshavskoye subway depot. It transpired that initially swords and daggers were being forged there but when a certain T., a major weapons specialist, joined the small enterprise they switched to "batch" production of the PPT-93, a new type of submachine gun. The depot did not monitor the activity of Mr. T. and Co. and, as one of the operatives joked, eventually you might even see an armored train emerging from the subway tunnel.

T.'s activity was thwarted and nine PPT-3s, ammunition, and more than $10,000 were recovered. In addition, when the enterprise premises were searched, 39 rifle barrels and a large quantity of billets for various weapon spares were found. In short, production had been expanding....

It has to be noted that the weapons made were of good quality. The parts—the burnished steel sections and the fine wooden handles—fitted together well. The 9-mm submachine guns were made especially for mafia showdowns—they fire in short bursts, the scatter range is

insignificant, the lethality is greater than the PM [Makarov pistol], and the magazines contain 20 or more Makarov pistol shells. It is obvious that T. had great experience of gun making, because all the manufacturing processes had been strictly observed.

In the words of Lieutenant General of Militia Vyacheslav Ogorodnikov, chief of the Main Directorate for Protecting Public Order, in the past three years the number of crimes involving the use of firearms has increased from 4,000 to 22,500. In the past year 1,366 pistols and revolvers, 1,946 automatic rifles, 140 machine guns, six rocket launchers, and 33 grenade launchers have been confiscated from criminals. Weapons are not only obtained from the "hot spots" but are also stolen from arms dumps, and thefts from weapons plants are also on the increase. At the Tula Weapons Plant alone, 14 criminal groupings engaged in weapons theft were recently exposed. Automatic rifles had also been stolen from the Izhmash Production Association for subsequent sale.

So, regrettably, there is no problem in obtaining weapons. Russian-made, Chinese, Western—whatever your taste. If you want something exotic, Mr. T. and his Krasnogorsk colleagues will oblige. Admittedly, this will cost you more, as will anything made to order in small batches. For example, a PPT-93 cost half a million from a secondhand dealer at the beginning of 1993—there is a market for it even as far away as Africa. However, sooner or later someone will have to answer for this.

Arms Manufacturers Downbeat on Sales Prospects

PM2206152594 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Inna Petrova under the "Arms Trade" rubric: "Russian Arms Manufacturers Are Afraid To Approach the World Market with an Assault Rifle"]

[Text] Vladimir—The international exhibition "Russia's Armament and Military Hardware," organized for the fourth time by the "Zolotyye Vorota Rusi" Joint-Stock Company in conjunction with the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company, has ended its work in Vladimir.

According to specialists, it was a success and to some extent will enable Russian enterprises engaged in producing small arms and hand-held artillery to improve their economic position. Not at once, it is true. It will take quite some time for the new models of weapons, military gear, and optics which were exhibited—and most of which are unparalleled in the world—to find rich buyers. Although representatives of over 30 foreign firms, governments, ministries of defense, and other departments visited the exhibition, experience of similar events in the past shows that business offers should be expected later, when foreign businessmen and experts have analyzed all the information obtained.

Our arms manufacturers are preparing to work in new conditions: The government's May decree gives manufacturing enterprises the right to engage in autonomous foreign economic activity. But will this accelerate sales of output which has accumulated in plants? Will the autonomy that has been granted not remain imaginary? Are the producers themselves ready for such free floating?

Here are the views of professionals, which I have heard.

Nikolay Kovalchuk, general director of the "Zavod imeni V. Degtyareva" Joint-Stock Company, city of Kovrov:

"Since we will be permitted to obtain a license and to trade in weapons, then, technologically, we must have our own pricing specialists, market analysts, and traveling salesmen.

"Quite a long time will pass while they are making the acquaintance of potential buyers and finding out who is behind whom and with which grouping or which shaykh it makes sense to talk and with which it does not. But what will be the good of a sale several years later? Maybe, while earning dollars today, tomorrow we will start losing them—in hundreds and thousands? I believe that the process might drag on. Therefore we must use structures which have experience of the arms trade and with which we have long-standing ties."

Vladimir Pankov, leading engineer of a machine-building design bureau, city of Kolomna:

"While you are agreeing all the parameters of contracts with many official organs, the client simply loses patience. The time it takes to register jobs is approximately doubled. Frequently there is also unjustified interference in prices.

"There is a fear that, just as we 'ate our way' through petrodollars in the past, so now we might lose dollars from sales of at least that section of weapons in which we are permitted to trade. They will be 'eaten' precisely by the intermediate structures."

Yuriy Sergeyev, chief of a department of Tula Instrument Making Design Bureau:

"There was, is, and will be a monopoly of the arms trade. If the 'Rosvooruzheniye' State Company conducts talks with our participation, we will not be selling too cheaply, as the saying goes. But if it does so without us, then the features of our output are not always correctly highlighted. It happens that a single model of a weapon is sold, and not at a high price either. It turns out that it has been sold for cognitive-intelligence purposes. We lose our potential and give up our product for nothing.

"We are not adversaries or rivals of the 'Rosvooruzheniye' State Company. We must work alongside it in studying world experience of the arms trade and engage in marketing research so as to get a result."

Mikhail Zakharov, vice president of the "Spetsialnoye Mashinostroyeniye i Metallurgiya" Joint-Stock Company and in the recent past deputy minister of the defense industry, who now tackles questions of the arms trade:

"In the past the people of Tula were granted autonomy, and nothing came of that. The decree elicited in me a dual feeling. What was the point of it, if it ran counter to previously issued documents, particularly the president's edict on setting up the 'Rosvooruzheniye' State Company as a monopoly organization? It essentially does not give enterprises sufficient rights for autonomous trade in weapons. In addition, very many competing organizations from Russia will appear on the market—which will not produce positive results. It is said that they do not let us onto the market. But we ourselves have not yet learned how to trade."

The position of the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company itself was presented by Aleksandr Semenov, deputy chief of the regional policy administration. In his opinion, the decree's publication certainly does not mean that tomorrow all enterprises will run to conquer the foreign market with their output. The right to participate in military-technical cooperation with foreign countries is granted them only if certain conditions are observed. It is necessary, among other things, to undergo two-level certification and registration. The commission on foreign economic cooperation, which will be headed by First Vice Premier O. Soskovets, will have the final say.

Thus, the question of whether there is a monopoly of the arms trade in Russia remains open.

Federal Assembly

Duma Fails To Approve Budget at Third Reading

LD2206172594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] On Wednesday the Russian State Duma failed to approve the 1994 federal budget at third reading even though it was put to a vote three times.

During the last round in the evening, 212 votes were cast for the budget, 43 against with 60 abstentions. Approval required 225 votes.

Acting Minister of Finance Sergey Dubinin did not succeed in persuading the Duma to pass the budget as a compromise reached in close cooperation between the government and the lower house of parliament. He said that without an approved budget the government does not have the right to use credits of the Central Bank but is limited to taxes which he said constitute only 60 pct of the necessary resources. This threatens this year's supplies to North Russia and the gathering of the harvest and puts off the planned raise in the earnings of government employees.

After the voting results were announced the Agrarian faction suggested putting off the matter till Friday as 15 of its members were absent.

Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin gave instructions to cancel all deputy business trips and visits of parliamentary delegations and said that all deputies should come to Moscow for the crucial vote.

Appropriate orders were given to the head of the office of the Duma Andrey Voikov.

The voting is scheduled for Friday morning when a plenary session is to begin at 9 a.m.

Vote Prompts 'Fiery Diatribe' From Rybkin

MK2306063094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 1

[Yelena Kolokoltseva report under the "Boycott" rubric: "Ivan Rybkin Shouts at Absentees. The Upper Chamber Does Not Want To, the Lower One Cannot Approve the Budget"]

[Text] At yesterday's plenary meeting Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the lower chamber, raised his voice to a shout and ordered that deputies on trips be recalled, the scheduled State Duma visit to The Hague be canceled, and all deputies except for the sick come to work by 0900 hours on Friday. The speaker's fury stemmed from parliament's failure to adopt the 1995 [as published] federal budget at the third reading. Deputies voted three times, and in the second vote the budget had every chance of being approved—it fell short by only four votes, which could admittedly have been supplied by the deputies-cum-government members currently out of town.

Nothing seemed to foreshadow such an outcome. After a fairly sluggish discussion of the agenda (the deputies did not even react to an enticing proposal to dismiss Andrey Kozyrev, who signed the treaty on partnership with NATO yesterday), the State Duma proceeded to approve the budget it had already given its second reading. Things were taking their normal course, but somehow lethargically as if in a slow-motion picture: Budget Committee Chairman Zadornov had the floor, Deputy Finance Minister Petrov followed him, a vote was held—and there you go, the budget was rejected by a margin of 31 votes. The deputies voted once again—another failure. During the break the factions left for a conference, the State Duma Council met, and acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin was summoned. However, his arguments that the Central Bank cannot give credits and that there will be no money to pay for deliveries to northern areas, the harvest, and so forth did not convince the people's representatives—the budget fell 43 votes short of approval. It was then that Ivan Rybkin delivered a fiery diatribe and demanded that those "stuck in the smoking room, giving interviews, and so forth" be brought back. However, the only person to respond—and even he only responded by telephone—

was Anatoliy Sliva, chairman of local self-government committee, who said that, though he was sick, he would come to the Friday meeting to attend the fourth vote on the budget.

It is doubtful, however, that all deputies will follow Anatoliy Sliva's noble impulse—on Friday the next match of the Russian soccer team at the World Cup will be aired on television during the daytime.

Duma Debates Yeltsin's Organized Crime Decree

LD2206180794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1525 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun—Today the Russian State Duma examined the issue of the Russian president's decree "On Urgent Measures to Protect the Population From Gangsterism and Other Kinds of Organized Crime". In his report, Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the Security Committee, said that the most resolute struggle against crime should be mounted. He believes, however, "illegality cannot be used to fight illegality."

In his address to State Duma deputies, First Deputy Interior Minister Mikhail Yegorov noted that the painful process of forming new economic structures is under way in the country. "The law enforcement bodies know very well who the leaders of the criminal world are," the general said. "And, in this respect, the presidential decree makes it possible to deal with them. We are not going to detain anybody for 30 days. Give us at least a month. I assume the entire responsibility for implementing the decree."

Finally, the State Duma adopted a decision to:

1. Draw the Russian Supreme Court's attention to the need to observe the Russian Constitution and relevant legislation when examining specific criminal cases;

2. Confirm the fact that norms of the Code of Criminal Procedure are fully in force in the Russian Federation;

3. Have the State Duma Committees for Security, Legislation, and Legal and Judicial Reform submit to the State Duma for examination within two weeks the following draft federal laws: "On Combating Organized Crime"; "On the Fight Against Corruption"; "On State Protection for Victims of Crime, Witnesses, and Other Persons Assisting Legal Proceedings"; "On State Protection for Judges, Officials and Law Enforcement Bodies"; "On Russian Federation Counterintelligence Bodies"; "On the State of Emergency"; "On Keeping in Custody People Suspected and Accused of Crimes"; "On the Russian Federation Constitutional Court"; and "On State Service";

4. Invite the Federal Assembly's Federation Council, the president, and the Russian Government to participate in debating and improving the above laws in order to speed their passage through the Russian Federal Assembly and their signing by the Russian president.

5. Recommend to the Russian president to refrain from bringing into force Decree No. 1226 of 14 June 1994 "On Urgent Measures for Protecting the Population From Gangsterism and Organized Crime" in order to bring it in line with the Russian Constitution and to submit a draft criminal code, draft code of criminal procedure, and draft code of criminal execution of the Russian Federation to the State Duma as soon as possible.

Factions Divided on Extending Assembly's Term

LD2206143394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The State Duma's factions are against the idea of extending parliament.

Leader of the Liberal-Democratic Union of December 12 Boris Fedorov categorically opposes this idea. He told INTERFAX that it was illegal and that he would resign on the day stated in the Constitution—December 12, 1995—whether or not a decision on the issue was taken.

Leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy believes that the deputies' powers may be extended, if his party is given a chance to form a government. Otherwise, early presidential and parliamentary elections must be held, he said.

Vice-Chairman of the Communists of Russia faction Viktor Zorkaltsev said that the proposal on postponing parliamentary elections was unethical. As the State Duma was elected for two years, he said, it had no moral right to vote for the extension of its powers. "Electors will not understand us," he said.

Representative of the Russia's Choice faction Aleksandr Osovtsev views this proposal as an attempt to "buy" deputies. "One can't change the rules either during the game or after it, when a certain result has been achieved. This is not a gentlemanly practice," he said.

In his opinion, the alignment of forces in the bodies of state authority following the elections on December 12, is "accidental rather than logical" and that new elections must be held.

Member of the Yabloko faction Viktor Sheynis said that the idea of suspending parliamentary elections was immoral, and expressed hope that even the deputies who wanted to have their powers extended would not dare to ruin their reputation by supporting this idea.

In his opinion, the State Duma is not likely to provide two thirds of the votes necessary for changing the Constitution.

Deputy Gennadiy Burbulis, who withdrew from Russia's Choice faction recently, said that extending parliament

was possible. He believes, however, that the most important thing is to ensure the stability of the current course, not to extend the deputies' powers.

Burbulis also said that the question of extending the president's term in office might be raised on the condition that Boris Yeltsin pledged not to run for the presidency in 1998.

Deputy Says NATO Partnership Not Properly Discussed

LD2206141194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1347 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS—A State Duma deputy accused the Russian Foreign Ministry of failing to organise the discussion of the Partnership for Peace [PFP] programme in the parliament before signing it.

Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma Committee for International Relations, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday that the deputies received the text of the programme only a few hours before Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev signed it in Brussels today.

He said that President Boris Yeltsin recommended setting up working groups in the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, with the participation of State Duma deputies to discuss the programme. However the Foreign Ministry had failed to arrange such discussions. "That's not the way for democratically minded people to treat the parliament," Lukin said.

Hearings Focus on Kaliningrad's Strategic Importance

MK2206093594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 4

[Aleksandr Koretskiy report: "Deputies on Kaliningrad Oblast. Immanuel Kant's Homeland: The Struggle of the Ideal and the Material"]

[Excerpts] The problems of Kaliningrad Oblast do not allow politicians a minute's peace. Recently, the enclave was visited with a great fanfare by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who spoke at length about its strategic importance. However, Kaliningrad is also the district that gave the Federation Council its chairman, Vladimir Shumeyko. He ran there under the slogan of setting up a free economic zone, and an edict on creating it was signed by the president right after the votes were counted. Yesterday, the oblast's problems came to the attention of joint, carefully organized hearings of State Duma and Federation Council committees. Their leitmotiv was the politically low-risk, albeit hardly new, idea of making the oblast Russia's economic, political, and military outpost. [passage omitted]

The Kaliningrad hearings could not, however, be contained within the limits of a purely economic discussion. Sensational reports were heard that Germany, Lithuania, and even Belarus have been recently calling—so far unofficially—for postwar borders to be redrawn, implying primarily Kaliningrad Oblast's alienation from Russia. The problem of having an enclave and protecting national interests finally came to dominate the statements of nearly all speakers. Historical exposes were also to be heard. One of the popular theses was that neither Lithuania (which has never owned Klaipeda and, moreover, received Vilno [Vilnius] only from the USSR), nor Germany, which lost the war, has the right to lay claim to the former East Prussia. A Foreign Ministry representative, who did not wish to keep aloof from the debate, recalled that it was Germany that sponsored the well-known resolution by the European Parliament on Kaliningrad in February. It stressed the enclave's "special nature" and emphasized the need to give it the right to forge direct ties with European structures. The Foreign Ministry, however, did not manage to avoid criticism. It was taken to task by the deputies for "bungling the opportunity" of granting extraterritorial status to the railroad connecting the oblast with the rest of Russia.

The main result of the hearings was the recommendation to both parliament chambers that the drafting of a law on a special status for Kaliningrad Oblast should be considered a priority in their lawmaking activity in 1994. It cannot be ruled out that the consideration of the bill may acquire dialectical features: "Kantian idealism" (that is, political rhetoric) may sweep the State Duma owing to Zhirinovskiy's efforts, while entirely "Marxist materialism" may gain the upper hand (with Shumeyko's blessing) in the Senate.

Duma Passes Law on External Borrowing

LD2206211494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1436 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun (TASS)—The State Duma today adopted a law "On the Russian Federation's external borrowings and state credits granted to foreign states by the Russian Federation". The law defines the concepts of Russia's state external borrowings and state credits granted to foreign states by the Russian Federation. It establishes the procedure for the adoption of decisions on state external borrowing by the Russian Federation and the granting of state credits to foreign states by the Russian Federation. The law provides that international agreements of the Russian Federation on state external borrowings by Russia and the granting of state credits to foreign states by Russia are subject to ratification, if the amount of the funds being borrowed or granted under the agreement exceeds 100 million dollars.

State Duma Votes To Raise Minimum Wage

LD2206172094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS—Russia's minimum monthly wage will rise to 20,500 roubles (about ten USD) from 14,620 roubles. The corresponding law, taking to effect from July 1, was adopted today by the State Duma (lower house) of the Russian parliament.

The new minimum wage in the state-run sector will be provided by corresponding budget sources, whereas all other companies and agencies should ensure it from their own sources, the law stated.

Labour Minister Gennadiy Melikyan, speaking before the Duma, noted that only 3.5 per cent of Russians live off the minimum wage. According to the minister, the survival minimum (what the West calls poverty line—TASS) for Russia amounts now to 72 thousand roubles.

The new law is to be submitted for approval to the Federation Council (upper house) of the Russian parliament.

Faction Leader's Defection Throws Committee Balance

PM2206092994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Anokhin: "Mutiny on Board the PRES. Will Konstantin Zatulin Remain Duma Committee Chairman?"]

[Text] Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of a State Duma committee, has announced his resignation from the post of senior secretary of the PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] faction. Among the many reasons which prompted him to do this he mentioned "the impossibility of collectively formulating, discussing, and implementing party policy in a serious way." In Zatulin's opinion its most serious problem as of today is the question "with whom and against whom the PRES will be in future presidential and parliamentary elections." He expressed his fear in the words of Solzhenitsyn: "There is a risk that the party could remain the Moscow entourage of its ambitious leader and that its members could inherit the lot of hostages in a political game they do not understand."

The discord among the faction's leaders has immediately raised the following question point-blank: Will Zatulin continue to head the Committee for CIS Affairs and Ties With Compatriots, or will the PRES try to replace him with a more reliable representative of its own? Faction member Sergey Shulgin, chairman of the Duma subcommittee for tax and customs legislation, prefers to call what has occurred not a split but a redistribution of duties—Zatulin has been extremely heavily burdened with Duma committee matters. Nevertheless, Shulgin said, "I am surprised by Zatulin's words concerning Sergey Shakhray's 'dictatorial' ways. Rather, it is the author of the reproaches himself who suffers from this. Shakhray is quite a democratic man. When he attends sessions of the faction—which rarely happens—he conducts them evenhandedly and properly, taking account of all opinions. If Zatulin does leave the faction, he is not obliged to quit the chairmanship of the State Duma committee. We voted against making deputies' mandates imperative. We should proceed from the premise that Zatulin's nomination may have brought a certain percentage of votes to the PRES in the elections and helped our candidates into parliament."

Sergey Shapovalov, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Federation and Regional Policy Affairs, is convinced that it is a question of conflicts over certain political questions which are being decided within the association. The question of whether the PRES representative should hold the chairmanship of the Committee for CIS Affairs and Ties With Compatriots should he leave the deputies' faction is a complex one. The State Duma statute contains no legal rules defining such actions. When we voted en bloc for the chairmen and deputy chairmen of committees, Shapovalov said, we did not envisage such a turn of events. An amendment must now be made, because this problem could arise in other factions as well. "Personally I believe that if a 'party' deputy leaves a faction, the faction is entitled to raise in the Duma the question of replacing him with another member of the faction. Otherwise this will destroy the mechanism for pursuing party policy in parliament."

Regional Affairs

Tatar President Supports Crime Edict

LD2206135994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev has supported the decree of President Yeltsin on combating crime.

"Much of what the decree provides for has been done in Tatarstan since April 1993 and produced noticeable, if not striking results," Shaymiyev told Interfax.

He said that after he was given special powers by the Tatar parliament and after extraordinary steps were taken to stamp out crime, law enforcement workers have overcome "the syndrome of fearing the underworld" and now control the situation.

Shaymiyev said the rate of unsolved crimes has grown from 49 to 72 pct of the total number of registered crimes. He accounted the growth in the overall rate to stronger control over attempts by law enforcement bodies to underestimate the scale of crime.

President Yeltsin was informed about the experience in detail and the experience was approved by the Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, the Tatar leader announced.

He admitted that certain excesses are possible in the process of enforcing the decree. Still "if we want to act adequately in the present situation, there is no other way today."

Shaymiyev thinks that the Council of the Federation and the State Duma must back the decree by appropriate laws and before that express their support.

Situation Stabilizing in Ingushetia-Ossetia

LD2206141894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Reports from the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, where the state of emergency was extended until 30 June by the Russian president's edict, say the situation there is stabilizing. This has also been confirmed by military sources. No interethnic conflicts have been registered there in the past day. The Russian peacekeeping forces, jointly with the local law enforcement bodies, continue to ensure that the state of emergency is being observed.

North Ossetia, Ingushetia Reject Refugee Plan

LD2206134194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Representatives of North Ossetia and Ingushetia have both turned down options for the return of refugees to their former homes, which had been put to both sides. The RIA news agency was informed of this today by negotiators representing the interim administration in the state of emergency zone.

The interim administration has drawn up its own proposals, which are now being worked on by state structures in both republics. The details of the plan have not been divulged so far. However, RIA has learned from reliable sources that the interim administration intends to abide by the timetable and principles for the return of refugees set out in the Russian president's decree of 30 May this year.

Komi Republic Head Interviewed on New Powers

LD2206190394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1709 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Interview with Yuriy Spiridonov, recently elected as head of the Komi Republic in May 1994, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—"Exclusive" report No. 25 of 75]

[Text] INTERFAX: What additional opportunities will you have due to the new powers that you have received? Experts believe that if the two republics within the composition of Russia (Karelia and Komi) refuse from the institution of presidency, this will restrict activities of their leaders.

SPIRIDONOV: Certainly, the head of the Komi Republic elected directly by the population will enjoy a kind of additional immunity in the face of both the federal structures and the representative bodies in Komi. However, I think that the new Constitution gives to the State Council (the future parliament) enough rights for control over the leader.

At the same time, the additional powers will inevitably lead to additional and rather serious responsibility for the leader. I will point out that the head of the republic and the president are not quite the same.

I have repeatedly stated that there must be only one president in Russia. I still think so since each of the federation's constituent members is an integral part of the Russian Federation. The leaders of the republics and regions, even if they are elected by nation-wide voting, cannot be called the presidents.

The president in most cases does not head either the legislative or the executive powers but seems to stand above both of them. Contrary to the president, the head of the republic will directly head the government which means that he has to bear more responsibility than many regional presidents. That is why I believe that as the Head of the Komi Republic I will have enough powers but just in order to work more than some presidents do.

INTERFAX: How will the head of the Komi republic organize "regional" and "federal" utilization of many resources possessed by the republic?

SPIRIDONOV: This is right. God really made us very rich with natural and mineral resources. These resources must be used. Given the economic crisis it would be a crime just to be standing on these resources without using them now.

First of all I will speak on the situation in the forestry complex—the oldest industry in Komi which is now in a very poor situation. Success will depend on support which the center can give to the republic. This is the primary task.

The second point is that we must go back to our economic origins and organize a good mining industry in this region. We have all necessary opportunities since a significant part of the Urals reach with mineral resources belongs to Komi, a kind of mountain countries.

I believe that we have great opportunities for development of this industry. We just should not listen much to various demagogs covered by "green masks" who are pursuing their selfish political goals frightening people by ecological threats. Everything what the republic has must be made of use to people.

INTERFAX: The strike movement of miners is gaining force in the republic. There are certain suggestions that the Komi government and the parliament were hoping for the center too much in what concerned the settlement of this issue. Will you have more opportunities to influence the Russian government on this issue since now you have received new powers?

SPIRIDONOV: The point is that the coal industry is managed by the federal bodies. That is why this issue can be resolved only through contacts with the federal structures.

The Komi leadership is maintaining permanent contacts with the center. A resolution of the Russian government on the problems on the Pechor coal basin was worked out as a result.

The resolution provides for significant investments of capital into the industry. Unfortunately, some mines will be closed. However, I strongly believe that today it will better to create new jobs for specialists living in the North rather than to close unprofitable enterprises.

Today most of investments into the social sphere must go to the regions with normal climate. Otherwise, inhabitants of the North region will be practically condemned to dying.

A special protocol was signed with the Rosugol company. I have recently met the leadership of the Kaliningrad Region (western Russia) where the climate is rather favorable and construction of dwelling places will cost twice cheaper than in our northern Vorkuta.

When I have to meet with miners, I always tell them on their political demands, "You are used by various dishonest political leaders in order to get access to power. You are promised possible and impossible privileges when you are used." Recently, miners have been given so many privileges that sometimes they allow themselves not to work for a half of the year.

I think that miners, being naive, will be listening to those who enjoy using the difficulties of Vorkuta and Inta in their own interests and be backing them. In fact, there are many difficulties but there will be nothing good out of it.

INTERFAX: You have repeatedly stated that the federal treaty does not work. Obviously, that is why the bilateral treaty between the Komi Republic and the Russian Federation.

SPIRIDONOV: I believe that the treaty on establishment of the federation must be signed by its constituent members. During the last constitutional conference, in my opinion, called by the advisors of the president rather than by Boris Yeltsin himself, there were not more than 20 pct or 30 pct of the federation's constituent members present.

As a result, the Constitution was adopted, worked out by mostly irresponsible people from the public and political organizations, the trade unions, etc. The Constitution includes only a part of the provisions of the federal treaty.

Since Yeltsin remains practically the only person at the federal level who understands what the Russian state system is, he proposed to us that our bilateral relations be legalized. It is obvious that the present Federal Assembly cannot include the federal treaty in the Constitution.

Unfortunately, most of current politicians do not realize the particularities of the Russian federal state system. That is what makes the uniqueness of Russia.

Kamchatka, Vladivostok at Odds Over Debts

OW2206224694 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 17 Jun 94

[V. Kuchin report; from the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Excerpts] Kamchatka mass media reported that the Far East Maritime Steamship Company had stopped allocating vessels for transporting containers to Kamchatka, and that Vladivostok had decided not to renew business relations with Kamchatka in the area of petroleum products delivery. Things have gone so far that Kamchatka cargoes are now being sold in the Maritime Kray to pay for debts incurred, without regard for who in Kamchatka owns it. This correspondent asked Kamchatka Oblast Governor Vladimir Afanasyevich Biryukov to comment on these reports. He said that as far as Kamchatka and probably other northern territories were concerned, such an imperious policy toward the outlying regions still dominated certain circles of the Maritime Kray. Vladivostok exploits its geographical location and its transportation links with the center of Russia, and it no longer considers the needs of these northern regions. This especially applies to the fuel and energy resources meant for Kamchatka. [passage omitted] However, it is only proper to note that talks with the Maritime Kray over the last few weeks give some hope that such events will not be repeated.

The Far East Maritime Steamship Company is reluctantly allocating ships for the Vladivostok-Petropavlovsk route, but as for passenger routes, no one even mentions them; it is as if they have never existed. [passage omitted] The Maritime Kray shipowners find it more profitable to work with Bangkok, Manila, Singapore, and Pusan than with Russia's northern ports. [passage omitted]

Vladimir Afanasyevich Biryukov added that the administration is continuing its talks with foreign partners on delivering petroleum products, some of which, sadly, are cheaper than Russian ones. [passage omitted]

As for marine transportation links, let me add that those Kamchatka residents who decided to leave the peninsula for good have become hostages. The number of these people increases daily; no matter who you ask, they want to leave Kamchatka. Delays in the payment of salaries, stoppages of enterprises, high prices, unemployment, a high crime rate, and unbearable climatic conditions augmented by freezing apartments and the lack of hot, and often even cold, water forces people to make such sad decisions. [passage omitted]

Panel To Draft Treaty With Bashkortostan Named

PM2306095194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Presidential Directive No. 300-d, signed by President Yeltsin and dated 14 June 1994]

[Text] A commission to draw up a draft bilateral treaty on the demarcation of areas of responsibility [predmety vedeniya] and the reciprocal delegation of powers between organs of state power in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bashkortostan is to be set up with the following members:

S.M. Shakhray, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, commission leader;

R.G. Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council (by agreement) [po soglasovaniyu];

S.A. Shapovalov, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Committee for Federation Affairs and Regional Policy (by agreement);

A.G. Shapovalyants, Russian Federation deputy minister of economics;

A.M. Pozdnyakov, Russian Federation deputy minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy;

A.V. Maslov, deputy head of the Russian Federation president's State Legal Administration;

A.P. Kozlov, head of the Russian Federation Government Apparatus's Department for Cooperation with Russian Federation Regions;

V.A. Pechenev, deputy head of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff Administration for Work with the Territories.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] 14 June 1994
No. 300-d

Communist Elected Chuvashia State Council Chairman

MK2306064094 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Communist Becomes Head of Chuvashia's State Council"]

[Text] Valentin Shurchanov, first secretary of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation republic committee and authorized representative of the "Greater Volga" association's board, has been elected chairman of the State Council by an overwhelming majority at the first organizing session of the State Council of Chuvashia.

St Petersburg Administrative Reorganization Planned

PM2306102194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Three Rayons Instead of Seven"]

[Text] A reorganization of the organs of executive power is taking place in St. Petersburg. It is aimed at improving the work of the rayon link and reducing the number of officials in these structures. The city's administrative division has changed: Three rayons—Admiralteyskiy, Kurortnyy, and Tsentralnyy—have been organized on the basis of seven rayons.

Work is under way on the formation of the concept of local self-management. For this a directive from the mayor has formed a working group consisting of workers from the city hall and rayon administrations and representatives of the public.

First Underground Nuclear Power Station Planned

LD2306100694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Russia's first underground atomic installation is to be assembled in Apatity [Kola peninsula]. Power engineers from the Moscow research institute for power engineering, the Russian research and design institute for power engineering technologies, and the mining institute of the Kola research centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences are working on the project. The installation will consist of four units and will be used to provide 60 percent of the city's heating requirements.

International Affairs

Tokyo Says G-7 To Propose Aid for Reforms

PM2206143494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "G-7 Will Demand Quicker Reforms From Ukraine, and in Exchange Will Promise Aid on the Russian Model"]

[Text] Tokyo—According to leaks from Japanese Government sources, at the G-7 meeting in Naples the forum's fundamental document—the economic declaration—will for the first time include specific mention of the need to grant large-scale Western assistance to poor Ukraine.

According to Japanese information, the draft G-7 declaration, which has already been drawn up, notes that the economic crisis in Ukraine has reached serious proportions and sovereign Kiev needs emergency Western aid so as not to slip into an abyss of instability and upheavals. The document proposes the holding urgently, in the fall of this year (and most likely in Canada), of a special G-7 meeting at ministerial level to discuss the details of both an aid package and a mechanism for granting the aid. A special meeting like this has been held only once before—in Tokyo in April of last year, and on that occasion Western aid for the Russian reforms was on the agenda.

The appearance of a clause on Ukraine in the fundamental document of the G-7 summit-level forum is, according to the Japanese version, attributable to two "firefighting" factors—a further deterioration in the situation in Ukraine could result in dangerous consequences for international nuclear security in view of the existence on Ukrainian territory of nuclear weapons and the still operating Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station; and an escalation of the economic crisis could blow apart the political situation in Ukraine and present Europe with a "second Yugoslavia."

The initiative to put the Ukrainian question on the G-7 agenda, the Japanese sources note, comes from Italy, and the subject itself was raised for discussion for the first time by the special personal representatives of the G-7 heads of state at the end of last week. The proposed pattern of economic aid to Kiev is thus far virtually a total repetition of the Russian version—it is a question of granting credits from the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Developments, conditional on further progress in Ukraine's economic transformations. Here the G-7 intends to urge Kiev to proceed more quickly along the path of reforms.

The volume of possible loans to keep the Ukrainian economy afloat remains a big secret—there is not even a hint of this in the utterances of informed sources.

Masol, U.S. Envoy Discuss Economic Issues

LD2206210194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] On 22 June, Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol received U.S. Ambassador William Green Miller at his request. During a sincere conversation touching on a broad range of issues, they deeply analyzed the state of Ukrainian-U.S. relations in the field of economic cooperation. The ambassador was informed about the economic and social problems facing the Government of Ukraine today and about ways to reform the economy taking into account the approaches expounded by the prime minister during the confirmation of his appointment by the Supreme Council.

They also discussed the implementation of the agreements on economic assistance to Ukraine—first and foremost, in organizing the production of medical preparations and on financial support for entrepreneurship. Issues pertaining to the forthcoming discussion by the G-7 leaders regarding energy supplies for Ukraine were also discussed, in particular, on providing help in developing and improving the safety of nuclear power engineering.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko took part in the conversation.

Ambassador to Belarus Urges Stepping Up Relations

LD2306010494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev—As a UNIAN correspondent learned on 22 June, Ukraine's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Belarus Volodymyr Zheliba sent a letter to Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol. The letter, in particular, indicates that for Belarus, Ukraine ranks second, following Russia, as far as foreign political aspect is concerned, and expresses concern at the state of Ukrainian-Belarusian relations, at the absence of contacts at the top state level, and also absence of proper trade and economic relations.

"We are convinced that the state of bilateral cooperation must be considered at the high governmental level in the very near future," believes Volodymyr Zheliba.

The letter also says that Ukraine occupies the second place (14.9 percent), following Russia (69 percent), in trade and economic relations with Belarus, however the establishment of a joint trade house has been put off. No agreement has been concluded between the banks on mutual settlements and credit relations. Also, in the opinion of the Belarusian side, the issue of liabilities between our states remains unsettled.

Iran's Foreign Minister Sends Message on Crimea

LD2206124394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev, 22 Jun—The Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati has sent a letter to Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko concerning the developments in Crimea following a decision by the autonomy's Supreme Council to restore the Crimean Republic's Constitution of 1992.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is convinced," the letter stresses, "that this problem must be solved on the basis of full adherence to the principles of international law: Respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, nonviolent conflict resolution, and noninterference in the states' internal affairs." The author of the letter noted that the "Crimean issue" was Ukraine's internal problem and could be resolved peacefully. Dr. Velayati stressed that Iran strived to achieve the above goal by means of mutual trust and peaceful coexistence.

Deputy Finance Minister: Foreign Debt Equals $6 Billion

LD2206144694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Ukraine's debt to Western creditors and former Soviet republics stands at $6 billion, Ukrainian Deputy Finance Minister Boris Sobolev told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

He said that this sum includes credits received and already used, as well as "the difference between Ukrainian exports to these countries and imports from them." The debt to the CIS countries slightly exceeds $4.3 billion, including $2.7 billion to Russia, $693 million to Turkmenistan, $28 million to Moldova, and $1.3 million to Kazakhstan.

The debt to Western countries mostly consists of the commitments against the export credits extended to Ukraine by the U.S., Germany, and the European Union.

Sobolev announced that the total amount of Western credits, used by Ukraine stood at about $1 billion. In addition to this, Kiev concluded agreements on $2.5 billion worth of loans.

Sobolev said that Ukraine was not delaying repayment of debts to Western creditors. He admitted, however, that Ukraine's debts to the CIS countries, including Russia, were not being paid back regularly. He said that the debt problem was closely connected with that of dividing the former Soviet Union's assets and liabilities which is still to be solved.

A foreign debt department is to be set up at the Ukrainian Finance Ministry to monitor the servicing of the debts, he said.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Vetoes Local Election Law

LD2206190794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has used his constitutional right of veto against the law on the formation of local bodies of power and self-government which was recently passed by the Supreme Council of Ukraine. The president has referred the law to the parliament for amendment. He announced this on Wednesday during a meeting with ministers and heads of departments on security issues. According to Leonid Kravchuk, some articles of the law contradict the constitution and the current legislation.

Kravchuk Campaign Seen Lacking Honesty

PM2206115594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by correspondent Olga Musafirova: "Kravchuk Speaks Russian in Odessa... and It's No Joke"]

[Text] During Ostankino's Kiev-Moscow radio phone-in, Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk, at the request of the moderator, told a funny story—an inoffensive one—about himself. And he noted that the mockery of the personality of the president of Ukraine had appreciably subsided.

I think that the underground political joke factory located somewhere on the territory of our neighboring state or perhaps overseas has simply stopped financing "Kravchuk stories." Kravchuk's own actions have begun to outstrip the humor and satire.

Let me therefore give you a pure fable: The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists [OUN] has decided to take up the environment, and it has come out with the slogan "Protect the forests! We still need them..." But now for real events: A large OUN gathering held in Kiev has confirmed that its members support Kravchuk, as they regard him as the sole guarantor of a "cohesive, democratic, rule-of-law, national Ukrainian state."

If I were an inhabitant of sunny Odessa, which Leonid Makarovich visited the other day, I would want to kick myself on reading the news about the OUN, because in Odessa Kravchuk actually managed to please everyone. He communicated effortlessly with the citizens in good Russian, advocating official bilingualism, and said a lot of positive things about the advantages of a free economic zone—the long-cherished dream of a free port, friendship with Russia, and also the dangers of national isolationism....

Only an outstanding politician is capable of winning the favor of people with diametrically opposed views from different regions of the country and securing their backing when less than a week remains before the election. Having essentially made a mess of his "Five D's" program—sovereignty, democracy, prosperity, and so forth [in the vernacular the five constituents of the program begin with the letter "d"]—which constituted the promises of the last election, Leonid Kravchuk now highlights two other achievements of the past period. His achievement, like Brezhnev and Gorbachev's, of international prestige and of the state's full involvement [polnopravnoye vklyucheniye] in the European Union. And success in the domestic arena, where the sparks of conflict have nevertheless not inflamed a civil war.

However, amid the election fever the president's support group has demonstrated—I would say—enthusiasm in excess of the plan. The usual slogan "Kravchuk means peace!" has been augmented by the warning "And Kuchma means war!" The relations between the two leading contenders are no longer being concealed from voters. On 13 June the president's adviser on political questions, Nikolay Mikhalchenko, gave a long interview to Ukraine's World Radio Service. It would be naive to think that the statements were made by him without the agreement of his immediate boss. First, Mikhalchenko asked the Ukrainian population in the Crimea to consider why they are so underrepresented in the autonomous republic's Supreme Soviet, given the powerful "de facto Russian community." And he then gave a long and detailed expose of the Russian stooge, Leonid Kuchma, concluding his thesis on a high note. "I know, for example, that if ever any president wished to incorporate Ukraine in Russia as a subordinate territory and discard its independence, West and Central Ukraine could cause a civil war in Ukraine."

Is it being honest toward Ukraine and its people, to which the presidential oath swears loyalty, to set the West against the East, Lvov against Crimea today, and all to get your rival's name boldly struck out on the voting slip? Is it being honest to take 52 million people to the brink of disaster while bestowing smiles right and left or to utter, if you lose, the classic parting words of advice: "Don't give anyone a hard time!"?

A week has passed since Mikhalchenko's appearance on Ukraine's World Radio Service. The president has in no way repudiated his political adviser's words.

However, honesty for a politician bent on winning an election at any price is a mere hangover from the past. One of the state structures has carried out the latest republic poll to ascertain which of the candidates' personal qualities dominate in the electors' minds. The poll makes clear that inscrutability, secretiveness, and flexibility are the most striking features of the current president's image. The majority of respondents were unable to judge whether Leonid Makarovich possesses qualities such as kindness, strength, or decency and unable to determine the features of his political makeup—whether he is a democrat or a dictator....

Moroz Interviewed on Elections, Black Sea Fleet

WS2206144894 Kiev VYBIR in English 2105 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Interview with Oleksandr Moroz, speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, by unidentified VYBIR reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Vybir: Will you promote the development of private business if elected the president?

O.M.: Yes, I will. The main thing is that such business should not be criminal.

Vybir: What are the ways to overcome the Crimean crisis?

O.M.: The only way is for the Ukrainian and Crimean parliaments to observe the Constitution of Ukraine. My visit to the peninsula is intended to reach this goal. It was a mistake on the part of our ruling bodies to neglect situation in the Crimea. I want to explain to the Crimean parliamentarians the position of our parliament and my personal position to this effect.

Vybir: Will left-wingers win the June 26 elections? Given this, will Ukraine change its foreign policy?

O.M.: Left-wing views start to dominate in our society. People understand that their prosperity depends on common efforts. This means that the broad public will mainly back up the left-wing candidates to the Soviets and the president's post. Ukraine's foreign policy will also be somewhat changed. Left-wing orientation is going strong all over the world. This process brings our civilization to optimal alignment of political forces. I believe that sharp political turns (whether to the right or left) should not physically or morally affect men in the street. Still, the foreign policy concept was fixed by the parliament and will not undergo cardinal changes. Everything depends on situation in the countries with which we will cooperate.

Vybir: What about the possibility of Ukraine's entering into NATO?

O.M.: Look, NATO is not the world community. Ukraine has always been and wants to remain an active member of such community. I do not want Ukraine to enter military blocs, I want it to be respected by the world community. Ukraine is the only country that declared its nuclear-free status and liquidates its nuclear arms. Unfortunately, other countries do not follow our example. Ukraine could initiate creation of the international club of the countries that wish to liquidate their nuclear weapons.

Vybir: What will be the Ukrainian-Russian relations?

O.M.: Russia is a great neighboring state having historically strong ties with Ukraine. People should adequately understand our history.

Vybir: Who is your strongest rival in presidential elections?

O.M.: All of them are strong enough. If they were weak, it would not be of great interest to me to run for presidency.

Vybir: What about your chances to be elected?

O.M.: They are rather high.

Vybir: What is the difference between you and other nominees?

O.M.: Unlike me, almost all of them occupied high official posts. I am not responsible for the consequences of the so-called economic reforms. Frankly speaking, among other candidates only I know well the problems of people. I do not accuse my rivals since they were "separated" from such problems.

Vybir: Why do so many people negatively assess the actions of President Kravchuk?

O.M.: This is because of the consequences of the policy conducted by the highest authorities while the president represents such authorities. This was proved by the results of parliamentary elections.

Vybir: Many people think that the Crimean crisis occurred as a result of sending some additional Ukrainian troops to the peninsula...

O.M.: Last Saturday I met with Interior and Defense Ministers. I proposed not to send additional troops and national guard to the Crimea. We must not use force but economic and political arguments.

Vybir: Will the president's powers be limited?

O.M.: This will be hard to do since such changes limitations must be fixed by the Constitution. If I am elected the president, I will enhance economic powers of the Cabinet. As I see it, today the president has too many functions which he is unable to perform in full scope. Still the president decides all personnel questions relating to the government. So, delegation of economic functions to the government helps the president fulfill his duties more efficiently. My cabinet will never hinder the process of reforms that are really useful for Ukraine.

Vybir: What are the ways to divide the Black Sea Fleet?

O.M.: As far as military interests are concerned, Ukraine gains nothing from the Fleet division. I often proposed to lease the Fleet either to Russia or the CIS. I am afraid that Russia may refuse to take lease of the Fleet or buy out a part of it. Given this, Ukraine will never be able to finance this huge Fleet. All this is relevant to economic restructuring. For instance, Ukrainian metal is sold all over the world which testifies to our mighty industrial potential. But on the other hand, it proves that we are bad businessmen because not a single country sells its rolled stock. The Ukrainian ship-building industry is one of the world biggest, it accounts for 80 percent of the USSR capacity in this field. Today it mainly works for export. Why don't we also use it to build our own merchant fleet or men-of-war?

Vybir: Thank you.

Press Support for Presidential Candidates Viewed

WS2206133794 Kiev VYBIR in English 2105 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Report by Vyacheslav Pikhovshek: "Finish of Presidential Marathon"]

[Text] The presidential marathon is nearing its end. There are seven presidential nominees (often called "big seven"), and only a few of them have real chances to win. The state press, whose circulation has dramatically decreased, were the first to show their sympathies to this or that nominee. "HOLOS UKRAYINY" (parliament's newspaper) has the circulation of just 325,000 copies while "ROBITNYCHA HAZETA" (workers' gazette)—90,000. This concerns not only the state press, but also the popular "KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI" (Kiev news) and once mighty "VECHIRNIY KYYIV" (Kiev at night)—185,000 and 36,000, respectively. Even such small numbers of copies create the illusion of influence in the broad public. Last week, "HOLOS UKRAYINY" published 10 articles supporting Kravchuk's candidature and seven articles backing up Speaker Moroz. The articles supporting Moroz were the biggest (17,500 characters) which is quite natural since the newspaper belongs to the parliament. At the same time, "ROBITNYCHA HAZETA" (founded by the Cabinet and interregional association of businessmen) published just one but big article (13,000 characters) supporting the candidature of L.Kuchma. According to poll results, 27 percent of the electors will vote for Kravchuk, 20 percent for Kuchma, 11 percent for Moroz (sociologic center "Socis"); 35 percent for Kuchma, 20 percent for Kravchuk, 10 percent for Moroz (sociologic center "Ukrainian barometer"); 37 percent for Kuchma, 27 percent for Kravchuk, 16 percent for Lanovyy (sociologic center "News"). So, the basic contenders are Kuchma and Kravchuk. Regional studies in Ukraine's south and east show the following: 21 percent for Kuchma, 7 percent for Kravchuk, 4 percent for Moroz (center "Democratic initiatives"); 23 percent for Kuchma, 19 percent for Kravchuk, 10 percent for Moroz (center "Naval- express"). It is evident that Kuchma and Kravchuk will win the first round but it is hard to say who will be elected the President. The basic role here belongs to the central Ukraine having 10-15 percent of electors who still have not decided whom to support—Kuchma or Kravchuk. Taking into account the fact that all votes of Plyushch and Talanchuk will go to Kravchuk like part of the votes of Lanovyy and Moroz, while the other part and all votes

of Babych will go to Kuchma, I can predict that Kravchuk will receive 47 percent of votes, Kuchma—53 percent, or 35 percent and 33 percent of votes, respectively.

Signs of 'Communist Renaissance' Seen

MK2206090594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skachko in the "Ukraine" column: "Voters Ready, in Crisis Situation, To Vote for Left-Wingers. Democrats Cannot Bring Themselves To Support an 'Outsider'"]

[Text] The parliament paper HOLOS UKRAYINY, citing the Kievo-Mogilyansk Academy Sociology Department, has reported that, according to a random survey of 1,005 people conducted two weeks before elections in 24 regions of Ukraine and in the Republic of Crimea, President Leonid Kravchuk heads the popularity rating, polling 29 percent. He is followed by ex-Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma (23 percent), parliament speaker Aleksandr Moroz (9 percent), Market Reforms Center President Vladimir Lanovoy (6 percent), parliament ex-speaker Ivan Plyushch (4 percent), banker Valeriy Babich (0.8 percent), and Education Minister Petr Talanchuk (0.3 percent). Twelve percent of the respondents intend to vote against all candidates, and another 16 percent have not yet made up their minds.

According to the poll, 76 percent of the respondents are going to take part in the presidential elections, 14 percent will not go to the polls, and 10 percent are not sure yet. The highest turnout is expected in western Ukraine—84 percent—and the lowest in the east: 70 percent.

At the same time it looks as though Ukrainian citizens' high pre-election activity may well produce an imminent political power crisis because, first, the voters still do not know what the powers of the person they elect will be. Second, in this situation the main aspirants to the top post in the country are people from the old set: Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma, who, thanks to their mutual efforts, appear in the eyes of the electorate in the case of the former as a symbol of stagnation and a near-criminal, do-nothing record in the state domain, and in the case of the latter as a symbol of Ukraine's pro-Russian orientation and gradual loss of political independence. Indicative in this respect are the results of another survey conducted in late May-early June by the Democratic Initiatives Center among 1,807 Ukraine citizens. Asked whether there are political leaders in Ukraine capable of running the country efficiently, 25 percent of respondents said that there are no such people; 56 percent do not know of such; and only 19 percent are sure that such leaders exist. Questioned about the role and powers of a future Ukrainian president, 53 percent of the respondents said the president should be the head of government and assume full responsibility for domestic and foreign policy, as in the United States. Some 25 percent were not sure, and 10 percent said that Ukraine's president, as in France, should share power and responsibility with a prime minister approved by parliament. Another 7 percent said the president should be merely the head of state, a symbol of the nation without powers, which should, as in Italy and the FRG, be vested with the prime minister elected by parliament. Only 5 percent said that Ukraine does not need a president at all. Sociologists concluded that people want not so much new as efficient presidential power and that obvious preference is given to a strong presidential republic. However, this is something the upcoming presidential elections do not promise.

Moreover, after Vitaliy Masol's comeback to the political stage, the ideals of radical political and economic reforms have been jeopardized and the political situation has deteriorated because in one of his first public interviews the new prime minister stated that he wants to head the executive branch and is ready to assume full responsibility. It is quite possible that the left-wing parliamentary majority, in deciding the problems of power delimitation and having no president "of its own," will heed this wish and give him full executive powers. It is very difficult to do this today because this calls for a majority of parliamentarians' votes to change the current constitution and the left-wingers have no such majority. According to some observers, the leftists are in no hurry to share out powers because they are waiting for the results of the presidential elections and by-elections of 112 Ukrainian people's deputies, which may bring the required number of supporters. This plan is not totally groundless also because, according to the above-mentioned poll by the Democratic Initiatives Center, 21 percent of respondents said that at present they share communist and socialist ideas, whereas in April 1992 only 6 percent openly sympathized with this platform. Sociologists conclude that the orthodox left has substantially consolidated its positions in the last two years. If, sociologists say, "in the very near future there are no basic changes in living standards, this trend will grow," and therefore the leftists will win over at least another one-third of the politically aware population. The parliamentary by-elections on 24 July this year will show whether the communist renaissance in Ukraine will be complete. If the leftists manage to get through their candidates and obtain a stable majority in parliament, they will be able not only to change any constitutional norm but also adopt a new constitution which will include provisions beneficial to them.

The democrats so far are maintaining a wait-and-see position. In particular, the Ukrainian Rukh leadership has stated that this organization will not support anybody in the first round of voting and in the second round it will possibly support the reformist Vladimir Lanovoy. Statements by other democratic leaders make it clear that they cannot move away from the set of well-known political figures and support a new person or at least boycott the presidential elections, thus wrecking them

and automatically extending the powers of incumbent President Leonid Kravchuk, whom many democrats see as "a lesser evil compared to the other candidates."

Parliament Moves To Curtail President's Powers

PM2206074594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by Dmitriy Zhdannikov under the "Ukraine" rubric: "Another Encroachment on Presidential Powers. Supreme Council Wants To Protect Cabinet From Extraneous Influence"]

[Text] Ukraine's Supreme Council is soon going to amend the law on the president, INTERFAX' Kiev correspondents report. The proposed amendments reserve for the president only the functions of head of state, denying him control of the cabinet.

Thus parliament is determined to turn the president into rather a symbolic figure not vested with any serious powers. Incidentally, this is not the first "campaign" by the republic's Supreme Council against—in this case—the powers of Mr. Kravchuk. The first one was several months ago and ended quite successfully for the Supreme Council. The objective at that time was to eliminate the system of presidential representatives in the regions, and it was then that Leonid Kravchuk stated he would not run unless the law was revised since he had no intention of becoming a toy in the hands of various political groups.

Early in May, however, with the question of Mr. Kravchuk's participation in the elections still undecided, the time factor, so to speak, came into operation and all the current president's opponents stated with one accord that they saw no reasons for bringing the 26 June event forward while there was no time left to review the law. Realizing he had no way out and that the elections could just as well proceed without him, Kravchuk had to join the presidential race, deferring until better times the hopes of having his representatives in the regions.

And there came a blow beneath the belt, so to speak. Hoping that few people would pay attention to what are generally radical amendments in the law one week before the voting, the Supreme Council is going to strip him of control over the executive branch. Kravchuk may be no economic figure. Indeed, he is not. Still he has every right to accuse the Supreme Council of ingratitude: It was he who proposed, a week ago, the compromise figure of Vitaliy Masol for the position of prime minister. Precisely in order to avoid yet another president-parliament crisis.

It may of course be supposed that, in getting ready to amend the law, the Supreme Council is simply out to protect Masol, whom it is quite happy about, against attacks by a new president. What if he happens to be, say, not Kravchuk but Kuchma, whose entire election program consists solidly of economic slogans? He would certainly keep a big drawer in the presidential desk for his ideas for laws concerning the economy.

There is just one "but." Given its present composition, parliament would be hard pressed to amend the Constitution. It requires at least 300 votes. At the moment the powers of only 336 deputies out of the requisite 450 have been confirmed.

Edict on Hard Currency Viewed as Election Ploy

LD2306095594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Responding to a request by a UNIAN correspondent to comment on the Ukrainian presidential edict on urgent measures to return to Ukraine hard currency valuables that are illegally held abroad and on the fight against speculation, Oleksandr Suhonyako, president of the Association of Ukrainian banks, said on 22 June: "This edict is a great deal more significant for the president's pre-election fight than for the economy. People who have hard currency are not so naive as to obey the edict and return the hard currency to Ukraine. This is an issue that confronts us all today. At present, according to various facts, there is up to $20 billion that belongs to Ukraine. No edict will be able to return these funds. They will be returned on the condition that those who own the funds receive guarantees that the capital will remain theirs. There should be a state guarantee that nobody will take an interest in how the owners obtained these funds. If we give such a guarantee then the money will be made to work for us. If we attempt to find out whether the money is dirty, gray, or white then we will do so until the end of the world."

In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent, Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Coordinating Committee for the Fight Against Corruption and Organized Crime noted that the aforementioned edict of the Ukrainian president "is of a principled significance for our state." He noted the importance of setting up concrete time-limits, both for declaring hard currency valuables that are held abroad (10 days) and for transferring them to Ukraine (one month). Durdynets stressed the importance of the fact that if the regulations of the edict in respect of businesses are carried out then sanctions will not be applied and their directors and officials will not be brought to book. "This edict gives law breakers the possibility to atone for their sins and to fulfill their duties toward the state," noted Durdynets, adding that if the regulations are ignored other legal norms and laws would come into effect and he gave assurances that the law enforcement bodies would then act more decisively.

With regard to the edict of the Ukrainian president on the fight against speculation, Durdynets gave assurances that the coordinating committee—of which he is chairman—that will supervise the implementation of this, will conduct steadfast supervision over the implementation of all its provisions. "I want Ukrainian citizens to

understand that our actions are directed at protecting their rights as consumers," noted Durdynets.

Report on Kravchuk's Remarks to Meeting on Crime

LD2206225294

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1900 GMT on 22 June carries a 10-minute recorded report by correspondent Tamara Kucherenko on a meeting on 22 June between Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and the leadership of Ukraine's "power ministries and agencies." According to Kucherenko, the meeting focused on "the protection and security of a human being" as a new conceptual problem for Ukraine.

Kucherenko quotes Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Kravchenko as saying that, although no drastic increase in criminal activity occurred in Ukraine and there was even a tendency toward a declining crime rate, the one phenomenon that was "acquiring a bloody character" was contract killing with the use of firearms—the number of which has increased three-fold. Kucherenko says that the situation was particularly serious in Crimea and that, according to Kravchenko, even while the rate of crime detection has risen by 14 percent, the murder of militiamen has become more frequent, and a disproportionately small number of criminals have been convicted for this crime.

Kucherenko says that both Ukrainian Justice Minister Vasyl Onopenko and Security Service chief Yevhen Marchuk criticized Ukraine's criminal law and insisted that, in particular, the law should be amended to apply the death penalty for the murder of militiamen.

Kucherenko then quotes Viktor Medvedchuk, president of Ukraine's Lawyers Union, as saying that 25,000 people had disappeared in Ukraine in 1993.

Kucherenko also describes Procurator General Vladyslav Datsyuk's address to the meeting as "quite expressive." According to Kucherenko, Datsyuk says: What we have is arbitrariness, rather than law; he says that there are delays in the handling of cases by the courts, isolation cells are overcrowded, people are taking turns sleeping, and there is not enough food for them. Datsyuk is quoted as saying that, at the same time, some "leading Mafiosi have now become real dollar millionaires."

Kucherenko reports on President Kravchuk's address to the meeting and follows with a recording of Kravchuk's remarks.

Kravchuk says: "Today we can say that our citizens—the citizens of Ukraine, the citizens of the state that exists, that is in the making—are not protected in full measure and cannot exercise their vital human rights and freedoms in full measure. I believe this is true. When we are talking about all those things that have been mentioned here today, however, we proceed from the basic principle that the life of an individual is secure. That is to say, there is peace, accord, and there are no encroachments on the most valuable thing—life.

"On the one hand, we see the existing difficulties; on the other hand, we see that there is a possibility for an individual to feel he is not in a state of emergency. Many other such examples could be mentioned. However, I agree with what has been said here. This was said by the chief of the Security Service and by Vladyslav Datsyuk [word indistinct]. It is clear that the challenge has been launched, and now we cannot evade this. We have to respond to war with war. We should not be afraid of this terminology. That is to say, I formulate [word indistinct] as follows: not a state of emergency, but emergency measures to fight the criminal world—emergency measures built on law, on enforceable enactments.

"This is why it is necessary to urgently submit such a package of documents—for example, on the initiative of the president—at least so they can be considered as soon as possible by the Supreme Council. However, we should immediately do what we can do on the basis of the already existing laws and the existing decrees. This includes both preventive detentions and the genuine protection, first and foremost, of employees of law enforcement bodies and other individuals who perform protective functions under the law.

"This does not mean that we will encroach on some rights and freedoms of either an individual or groups of individuals while taking emergency measures. We will protect the rights and freedoms of the largest, the most representative, group of people who suffer as a result of impudence, armed attacks, and just [word indistinct] cruelty on the part of various wild—I say this without any exaggeration—formations and criminal groups. I believe we have the grounds to do it exactly this way."

Kucherenko then reports that Kravchuk also reminded the meeting it became possible to prevent reprisals against the Communist Party and some of its leaders after the abortive August putsch of 1991 in Moscow. She reports that Kravchuk said that threats can be heard today from left-wing forces wishing to square accounts with their opponents, and they speak openly about concentration camps and crematoria. Kravchuk says very little is required to return to those times.

Election of Prime Minister Masol Viewed

WS2206142994 Kiev VYBIR in English 2105 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By Konstantin Borodin: "Vitaliy Masol—New-Old Premier of Ukraine"]

[Text] Vitaliy Masol has been elected the premier of Ukraine. 199 MP's voted for his candidature. 24 were against. Such result was a surprise for 78 MP's who

abstained (27 members of Rukh faction, 27 MP's from the group "Reforms", 26 members of faction "Statehood").

One day before the voting, those MP's were quite optimistic since the faction "Unity" (26 MP's) and faction "Center" were against elections of the premier. Les Tanyuk, MP representing Rukh, predicted that only 140 MP's, representing communists, socialists and agrarians, would vote for Masol. Leader of the democratic party V. Yavorivskyy stated that at least half of the faction "Center" would be against the candidature of Mr. Masol. Quite unexpectedly, there was a split among the left-wingers—parliamentarians from Donetsk region tended to back the candidature of Lazarenko.

However, Speaker Moroz proposed to postpone the election till next day. It is hard to say what kind of changes occurred within one night but, be that as it may, the left-wingers formed common opinion and pursued quite a few MP's from factions "Unity" and "Center" to vote for Masol. Thus, V. Masol, former head of the state planning committee and the premier of Ukraine in 1987-1990 again was elected to this high post.

Almost 4 years ago, the students went on hunger strike and made him resign on the 17th day of that strike. In October of 1990, this man was a symbol of a rotten communist system. However, the authorities did not fulfill other demands of students. Rumors have it that in the last 4 years Mr. Masol headed a company having a lot of offices abroad. His son is manager of "Rostok" company producing kitchen equipment. The company is profitable and popular among consumers.

Ex-Premier Y. Zvyagilskyy said that he had voted for Masol because the latter is good specialist and businessman who would stick to the policy of economic stabilization. Speaker Moroz told our correspondent that the Cabinet would undergo considerable changes. Says Mr. Moroz: "Nobody should complain that Mr. Masol is procommunist. First and foremost, he is a professional". According to leader of communists V.Symonenko, Masol meets the interests of not only the party of communists but the people of Ukraine as a whole.

One communist parliamentarian told that there had been heated debates among communists concerning Masol's candidature. He says that the fact that communists backed him was the compromise with centrists. Many communists did not like his address to the parliament in which he underscored his adherence to market reforms. Says famous economist V. Pylypchuk, member of faction "Reforms": Having heard his program, I understood that Mr. Masol had changed much. His program is 90 percent similar to mine. The main thing is that he should keep his promises".

Mr. Pylypchuk stressed the difference between economic programs of Masol and Speaker Moroz. The latter, however, stated prior to elections that the parliament and government would act in unison if Masol was elected the premier of Ukraine. According to Mr. Pylypchuk, it is good that left-wingers supported Masol since now they have no arguments in accusing the democrats of opposition. His opinion is shared by his colleagues from Rukh and "Reforms" factions. None of them is going to work in the Cabinet.

O. Yemets, the minister for the matters of nationalities in Zvyagilskyy's Cabinet, resigned on the next day after Masol was elected the premier. He believes that the government will be procommunist one and rejects any idea of formation of coalition cabinet. It seems that new premier likes such state of affairs. In particular, he states that his Cabinet would consist of professionals having no political sentiments. It was President Kravchuk who nominated Masol to the premier's post. This was done after parliamentary commissions considered the list of candidates including Y.Zvyagilskyy, leader of liberals I. Merkulov, former Vice Premier V.Symonenko, representative of Dnipropetrovsk nomenklatura V.Lazarenko, plant director V. Melnyk and V. Masol.

O. Zayets, secretary of Rukh faction, thinks that Masol's candidature was the best of them all but believes that the Premier had to be elected from "new people". Thus the victory of left-wingers at parliamentary elections was supported by appointing of the most odious person (for their opponents) to the premier's post. It seems improbable that the coalition government will be formed since democrats reject any idea to work in the cabinet. Still, Mr. Masol may cooperate with Pynzenyk and Lanovyy to partially implement their programs. It is worth underscoring that the victory of left-wingers can neutralize separatist sentiments in southern and eastern regions of Ukraine.

Meshkov Appoints Representatives to Russia

LD2306100594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Today, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov issued edicts on appointing the republic's plenipotentiary representatives to Moscow and Russia and on opening Crimea's permanent mission in Krasnodar Kray. According to ITAR-TASS information, Meshkov also signed an edict on setting up a space information agency in Crimea.

The leadership of the republic's parliament has adopted a decision on setting up a supreme economic council attached to the presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Crimea Parliament To Review Presidential Edicts

MK2206121094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 3

[Report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Crimea"]

[Text] A sitting of the Crimean Supreme Soviet Presidium has taken place [date not given]. The Presidium examined a draft law entitling parliament to overrule

edicts of Crimea's president and disband local soviets in the event of violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea. The 22 June session of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea will consider five recent edicts of the president of Crimea to see if they are in line with Republic of Crimea legislation. The next plenary sitting will concern itself with the question of immediate measures to stabilize the agro-industrial complex of the Republic of Crimea.

Kiev Accused of Hampering Sevastopol Elections

LD2206143894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Ivan Yermakov, one of the major candidates to be chairman of the Sevastopol City Council and former envoy of the Ukrainian president in this city, accused Kiev "of striving to cancel or torpedo the elections to the local power bodies." Commenting the latest changes in provisions for the elections in his interview with INTERFAX, he said that Ukraine's leadership "tries to buy time by any means in order to introduce something else after the presidential elections in Ukraine and to prevent elections of strong leaders in the region. Such leaders present obstacles to Kiev."

On June 16 Ukraine's parliament adopted an amendment to the decree on the elections to local power bodies which stipulates that a candidate who collects more than 25 percent of the votes will be considered elected. Earlier it was enough to collect more than 10 percent.

In Yermakov's opinion, this decision "disperses the electors' votes." He stressed that earlier voter turnout did not exceed 50 percent and now "it will be difficult to gather people to the elections during the period of summer vacations, especially for a repeated round of voting."

"The necessary 25 percent to win actually represents half of those who will come to vote. Meanwhile, as many as 11 people are on the list of candidates," Yermakov declared.

Yermakov, who is also chairman of the Union of Prosperity In Unity invited all candidates to negotiate so that everyone would receive a deserved place in the team and would stand in the common row for cooperation for the sake of the city's well-being."

"If we do not make these steps together, then an envoy appointed by another Kravchuk from Kiev will guide the city," Yermakov declared.

According to Sevastopol's state administration, a total of 34.7 percent of the Sevastopol residents intend to vote for Yermakov; Alexander Penkin, second in command of the Black Sea Fleet—13.1 percent; and former commander of the Black Sea Fleet Aleksey Penkin—10.1 percent.

Crimea Urges Withdrawal of Ukrainian National Guards

LD2206123094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Sevastopol, [no dateline as received]—On 22 June the SLAVA SEVASTOPOLYA newspaper published an appeal by Viktor Semenov, the chairman of the town council on the deployment in the town "without prior warning and in the absence of any need of Ukrainian National Guard battalions." "Every sober- minded person understands, states the appeal, that the deployment of subunits of Ukraine's National Guard on the eve of presidential elections, the election of the chairman and deputies of oblast and rayon councils, and an opinion poll of citizens on the status of Sevastopol at a time when the talks with the Russian Federation on the issues of the Black Sea Fleet are entering a decisive phase, is a previously planned political act aimed at frightening the residents of Sevastopol.

A protest by Ukraine's deputy procurator general against the holding of the opinion poll among the town's residents, which was recently received by the town council, also serves to confirm such a conclusion.

Semenov considers that a decision by the town council to demand that the president, the chairman of the Supreme Council, and Ukraine's defense minister review the decision to deploy Ukrainian national guard battalions in the town, that they return them to their former place of deployment as soon as possible, and also that Ukraine's procurator general withdraws the protest by his deputy are legitimate.

Order Issued on Armed Forces' Penal Battalions

LD2206133394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev—In the past few days army units and establishments within Ukraine's Ministry of Defense received an order by Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukrainian defense minister, that introduces "regulations on penal battalions in Ukraine's Armed Forces." It sets out the procedure and conditions for punishing compulsory service soldiers and also defines the procedure for the penal battalion's activity.

The regulations provide for the commander of the penal battalion to be appointed personally by the Ukrainian defense minister and determine that the military district commander is directly responsible for its leadership.

According to the resolution, the duration of service of officers in the penal battalion should not exceed five-six years for a battalion commander and 3-4 for other posts.

Today, there are two penal battalions in the Armed Forces of Ukraine: in Kiev's Darnitskiy Rayon and in Chernomorskiy settlement in Crimea.

Belarus

Opinion Poll Shows Lukashenko in Lead, Kebich Close Behind

WS2306102194 Minsk Sociological Center ERIDAN Opinion Poll in Russian 18 Jun 94

[Opinion poll conducted by the Minsk-based Sociological Center ERIDAN on 15 May and 18 June 1994]

[Text]

For whom will you vote?

Candidate	15 May	18 June	Increase (+/-)
A. Lukashenko	19.7 percent	21.0 percent	+ 1.05 percent
V. Kebich	19.7 percent	17.3 percent	- 0.86 percent
S. Shushkevich	7.1 percent	9.9 percent	+ 1.4 percent
Z. Paznyak	4.0 percent	11.6 percent	+ 2.9 percent
V. Novikaw	5.6 percent	6.4 percent	+ 1.1 percent
A. Dubko	0.5 percent	4.6 percent	+ 9.2 percent

One thousand respondents participated in the poll. Sample deviations do not differ from the statistics presented by the state service by more than 3 percent.

Some 30 percent of respondents expressed no opinion one way or the other.

Voter Turnout Figures in Minsk, Oblasts Specified

WS2306105194

[Editorial Report] Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian on 23 June at 0900 GMT broadcasts the live "special newscast Presidential Marathon" moderated by Alyaksandr Awcharenka.

Awcharenka begins by saying that polling stations opened five hours earlier to elect "the first president in the history of Belarus," however this historic event was not accompanied by "crowds lining up to cast their votes." He adds that according to reports from various oblasts, voting is still "gaining momentum."

Correspondent Ivan Hladkin, reporting live from the Central Electoral Commission, says that 7,326,550 people are "included on the lists for voting by secret ballot." Over the 10 days granted by the law for those unable to come to the polls on 23 June, some 279,938 people have cast their votes, which amounts to 3.8 percent of the total number of voters. As of 0900 GMT, 39.1 percent of voters have come to the polls in Brest Oblast and voting has been completed at 15 polling stations:

- In Gomel Oblast—38 percent have voted, voting completed at 11 polling stations;
- In Vitebsk Oblast—37.2 percent, voting completed at 19 polling stations;
- In Mogilev Oblast—35 percent, voting completed at five polling stations;
- In Grodno Oblast—33.6 percent, voting completed at 12 polling stations;
- In Minsk Oblast—33.2 percent, voting completed at five polling stations. "Only" 20 percent of voters have turned out by 0900 in the city of Minsk.

According to Hladkin, a number of people's deputies representing Popular Front Chairman Zyanon Paznyak have sent a motion to the Central Electoral Commission claiming that at one of the polling stations in Smalyavichskiy Rayon, people were forced to vote for one of the candidates. The commission has passed the motion to the prosecutor's office. Several other "petty" violations have been monitored at other stations.

Vyachaslaw Makalchuk, reporter from Pinsk, then makes a telephone call to the studio and briefs the listeners on the situation in the city and the cost of holding the elections in the city. Makalchuk says that voter turnout has been "good" and by 1000 GMT "a majority of Pinsk Oblast voters" will have cast their votes.

Program moderator Awcharenka then reads a report received from the Belarusian Embassy in the United States, which says that the Boston city administration resolved to "hoist a Belarusian flag over the city on 23-25 June" as a "symbol of solidarity of one democratic state with another."

Program moderator Awcharenka then concludes the program saying that the next live connection with the Central Electoral Commission will be at 1200 GMT.

Hryb Comments on Possible Outcome of 23 Jun Elections

LD2206175694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1529 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The parliament's Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb said he was ready to assume the responsibilities of the head of state if for some reason the Central Election Commission recognized invalid the presidential elections on June 23.

He said at a press conference in Minsk on Tuesday [21 June] that in accordance with the Constitution the powers of the president would automatically go to the parliament's speaker if the elections failed to take place.

Hryb avoided prognostication of the results of the coming elections and refused to say for whom he would vote.

Hryb said that the future president must concentrate on achievement of accord in the society. "No prosperity and well-being for the people can be achieved without accord," he stressed.

Certain media editions blamed the Central Election Commission for the particular attention attributed by Belarusian television to the election campaigns of some of the candidates for the presidency.

Tens of foreign monitors have arrived in Belarus in order to control the elections. Hundreds of journalists from the CIS and other countries will be reporting on the presidential elections.

However, the poll conducted by the Institute of Sociology under the Belarusian Academy of Sciences on Tuesday showed that about 80 percent of Belarusian voters would not come to ballot boxes. All the same, this does not mean that the president will be elected in the first round, experts said.

Kebich Presents Platform, Urges Close Union With Russia

WS2206144994 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Interview with Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich by correspondents at BTK Television studio in Minsk; questioners identified by caption—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Valeriy Drazdow, Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA] What prevented Prime Minister Kebich from conducting the kind of policy he promised to conduct after his election?

[Kebich] Can you imagine entering your house and seeing that everything has been stolen? What would be the first reaction of any man? How to go on living? Where to find money? This is roughly what happened here. We had a union and good close ties. We did not have to think how to sell our products or from where to get raw materials—everything worked perfectly. Then, we tore this union apart and found ourselves in a ransacked house. How could I resolve all these issues in these times of trouble? Every year I spent some four months in parliament arguing with lawmakers. You remember that as soon as I would enter the session hall, the issue of confidence in the government would be brought up; then lawmakers would demand a report on how we planned to overcome the crisis. It went on every minute of every day. Thus, it happened that we were in opposition to one another—the Executive and Legislative Branches. We still do not have the vertical structure of executive power and the government cannot influence many processes in the Republic. That is why the president, who will have much greater powers, will be able to expeditiously implement his decisions and form that vertical structure. We need tough laws and their rapid implementation. [passage omitted]

[Mikalay Shcherbachenya, Minsk RESPUBLIKA] The future of the society which you are going to build is primarily based on economic and political union with Russia. If you fail to form such a union, have you considered any other options?

[Kebich] The building of the future society is not my idea alone—we are building it and this is written in our Constitution. With regard to your question about union with Russia and possible options, I would be a weak politician if I burnt all my bridges behind me. There are other options, but I do not want to speak about them at this point. However I am positive and consider this the goal of the rest of my life to join our interests not only with Russia, but with Ukraine as well. If we agree to consider today as the starting point, I am sure that the union will definitely be formed within a year. [passage omitted]

[Drazdow, NARODNAYA GAZETA] Russia itself, however, is speeding toward an abyss—plants are closing down, chaos, inflation...[pauses] What is the sense of such unification?

[Kebich] We are uniting our economies and not gangsterism, chaos, or bankrupt enterprises. On the contrary, we are getting access to good contacts. Russia's first deputy defense minister visited us some time long ago. He promised that Russia will provide contacts for all military enterprises. We will only take good things from Russia and leave all the bad things behind.

[Uladzimir Lehankow, Minsk BELARUSSKAYA NIVA] Speaking about economic and monetary union—discussions are being held over its fifth article. Has there been any progress in this direction?

[Kebich] I declare that the fifth article will be amended and we will not tangle with the Constitution. President Yeltsin has promised that the Belarusian Bank will enjoy all the rights of a national bank. That is why the fifth article will be amended. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] What economic program do you suggest, being an outstanding economist and experienced politician. Will the Republic overcome the crisis by the end of 1994?

[Kebich] There is a candidate who proposes a program worth two years of U.S. budgets, another one promises that as soon as he comes to power he will give each citizen $150. The closer the elections, the more generous the promises. However, I want to ask him: Where did he get those dollars? Was it a gift from someone? If it was a gift, what promises did he make to receive it? He does not have this money! That is why I want to say that by the end of 1994 we would like to stop the economic slump and improve the situation in 1995. That is why I want to say overtly and honestly: Do not believe those who promise you pie in the sky.

[Reporter] How are you going to fight inflation?

[Kebich] We cannot allow high unemployment. That is why to stabilize the situation we probably should not reduce inflation to 7 percent. We must curb it, and we have substantially curbed it. Everything should be done within reasonable limits. [passage omitted]

Paznyak on Relations With Russia, Merger

WS2206113094 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Interview with Belarusian Popular Front Chairman Zyanon Paznyak by unidentified reporter at the BTK Television studio in Minsk on the "Presidential Rostrum" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] How will Belarusian-Russian relations develop when you become president?

[Paznyak] I believe that this is one of the key questions. Eastern policy, in particular our relations with Russia, will undoubtedly be a priority in our foreign political activities. What is my vision of this policy? I think that we should strive for initiating equal, partner-like relations with our eastern neighbor. This is very relevant, and Belarus should come forward with this initiative. I think that we will have to hold negotiations on this issue with the Russian president. We will have to try and organize a meeting and clear up all the issues concerning Russia, Belarus, and our mutual interests, the more so since quite a number of these issues have piled up. We are just as interested in good relations as Russia, given that Belarus is the state through which Russia can maintain contacts with the West. That is why we have things to discuss and must see them through to completion. I believe that the president of Russia is the right type of leader and the kind of politician with which we can discuss and resolve these problems.

[Reporter] People sometimes ask whether [Russian Prime Minister] Chernomyrdin would like to conduct business with President Paznyak. As we know, Vyachaslaw Kebich's trump card is the allegation that Chernomyrdin will refuse to deal with anybody other than Kebich.

[Paznyak] The prime minister of Russia will be dealing with the prime minister of Belarus, while the president of Russia will be dealing with his Belarusian counterpart. This is the procedure.

[Reporter] The administration frightens people with cock-and-bull stories saying that once Paznyak assumes the post, Russians will be told to go back to Russia.

[Paznyak] I must say that this is a hackneyed propaganda cliche. Still, this issue seems to worry many people, because many people treat the propaganda campaign very seriously. That is why I want to state clearly and precisely: Nobody, including myself, is going to drive Russians out of Belarus. This is absolutely absurd. Our task, including mine, will be to guarantee all Belarusian citizens, including ethnic Russians, a life that would be better than in Russia itself. Our task is to make Russians in Belarus feel that market reforms, democracy, and the freedoms for which we have been fighting will provide them with significant privileges. The Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] was the first to address the issues of the rights for ethnic minorities, religious groups, and cultural-national autonomy. The BNF addressed these issues in its first program; BNF deputies initiated their discussion in the legislature. The development of the law-governed state which we are advocating, reform, and the sociopolitical ideas championed by the BNF will guarantee civic peace in Belarus. It was the BNF that lobbied the idea of single Belarusian citizenship. The Law on Citizenship was almost entirely drafted by the BNF and the Supreme Soviet had to adopt it. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How many times a month will prices be increased if you become president?

[Paznyak] From the first days of my presidency, I will pursue such a policy as to stop price increases altogether. This will be done in the following way: A national currency will be introduced, appropriate policy will be conducted, and appropriate laws adopted to prevent the senseless issuance of credits. Production output will increase—all these measures will help curb price increases and stabilize the situation. The stabilization of prices is the primary task of reform. Later, when this stabilization is achieved and reform continues, the situation will diametrically change; and, having curbed inflation, we will gradually arrive at a normal price structure. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Kebich took out a lot of credits. How will President Paznyak deal with that issue?

[Paznyak] In October 1992, Belarus had no debts. Today, our per capita debt is around $200. I discussed this problem at my meeting with President Clinton at the beginning of 1994. I asked why the United States was granting loans to the current government, which was not using them properly. The credits are being eaten away and embezzled—we checked that. The government is granted credits, which later will have to be paid back by the people. We will start paying them back as early as 1996, when this government will have resigned and its officials are off living in their villas. That is why I suggested that credits be given to finance economic reform. I was happy to hear the U.S. State Department announce 10 days later that the United States was going to take such a stance with regard to credits. We will have to pay back those debts, but my government will try to put an end to embezzlements and improper use of funds, after which this capital will be used to finance economic reform. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What is your attitude toward the unification of monetary systems?

[Paznyak] I have addressed this issue many times and I want to repeat that my attitude is absolutely negative, because this is a bluff. Russian economists, including

Gaydar, and our experts have both proven in detail that this is an impossible operation. Nevertheless, this process is continuing. What is the essence of the unification? Instead of the unification of two monetary systems, the merging of two mafia clans, the Moscow clan and the Belarusian clan, is under way. Such clans have been formed in Russia and Belarus, and they have access to governing the state and they currently have common interests. The mafia is going international and becoming more integrated. The monetary merger is actually the unification of the interests of two clans. The Moscow grouping aims to grab our property by legal methods, have a guarantee of free transit of Russian gas and oil via Belarus. The military-industrial complex and certain political forces in Russia are interested in preserving nuclear arms and antiaircraft defense units on Belarusian soil. The Belarusian grouping has interests of its own, the primary one being to avoid responsibility for corruption and the collapse of the economy; shift this burden onto the shoulders of the Moscow administrations. They will also have guarantees that what they have managed to grab will not be taken away. This is a very grave problem, for we will be staying on our land but have no property. I am categorically against such policy, which has been continuing for eight months now. To what has it led? Belarus has lost one-third of its GNP; we are losing 25 billion rubles per day; business activity has stopped; investments frozen; plants are being closed down. [passage omitted]

Moldova

Dniester Leader Views Prospect of Relations With Chisinau

AU2206194294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2150 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 17/6/1994—The negotiations between Dniester and Moldovan sides are temporarily suspended; the Chisinau officials made a break "to calm the passions" after different political forces criticized the signing of the Snegur-Smirnov declaration, stated yesterday Valeri Litskai, state secretary of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, on Asket TV in Tiraspol. In his opinion, other reasons for this suspension would include the fact that Chisinau is preoccupied with the settlement of the Gagauz problem and that the results of the presidential elections in the Ukraine are awaited. Litskai declared that Moldova speculates on Dniester's financial difficulties. Dniester cannot obtain from Russia the coupons printed there, thus causing an acute crisis of cash. According to him, Russia declared that it would send the coupons to Tiraspol when an agreement between Chisinau and Dniester leaders is signed. Litskai pointed out that the Tiraspol leadership insisted for three weeks that Snegur meet Smirnov, but it received no answer. He said that nevertheless, the prospects of settling the conflict are favorable and gave as example the signing of an agreement between Russia and Tatarstan. According to him, the contribution of Russian and CSCE mission mediators to the settlement of the conflict has been substantial and constructive. Nevertheless, Moldova will be a potential enemy for Dniester, as it fortifies its armed forces and refuses to demilitarize, stated Litskai.

Gagauz Leaders Reject Further Compromises With Chisinau

AU2206201194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2055 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Comrat, BASAPRESS, 18/6/1994—"We have made too many concessions regarding the "Gagauz-Eri" special juridical status to the Chisinau officials and we decided not to accept any more compromises," told BASA Maria Marunevich, from the Gagauz Parliamentary Presidium. "We will insist that President Snegur and Speaker Lucinschi sign the last variant of the project agreed upon in the last meeting between Moldovan top leadership, president Topal, and Gagauz Speaker Kendigelyan and that this project be examined by parliamentary factions and adopted by the Moldovan Parliament," added Marunevich. Referring to Suleyman Demirel's recent visit to Comrat, she expressed concern that "several statements were made recently that contradict the Gagauzians' wish for self-determination." The newspaper HABERLAR stated on this issue that "certain internal divergences between Comrat and Ciadir-Lunga could not be concealed from the eyes of the guests. The Turkish guests felt that some speakers avoided the usage of terms 'Gagauz Republic' and 'Gagaouzia'; they preferred to use such terms as 'our region,' 'the districts densely inhabited by Gagauzians' or merely 'the Ciadar-Lunga district.' This happened despite the fact that Suleyman Demirel himself repeatedly said that he did not come to a certain district, but to Gagauz peoples, to Gagauzia." According to Marunevich, "the Gagauz-press agency called this an event that politically damaged Gagauzia's position as Demirel's visit had utterly different motives."

Chisinau, Kiev Representatives To Discuss Border Issues

AU2206201594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2055 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 18/6/1994—A meeting of the departments of foreign relations experts from the Ukraine and Moldova is to be held at the end of July. The meeting will discuss issues concerning the frontiers between the two states, declared to BASA a representative of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE). Initially, the Ukrainian MAE suggested the meeting to be organized at the end of June, but the Chisinau officials requested it to be postponed for a month, for they wanted better to prepare for it. The cited source stated that a visit to Kiev by the vice-premier Valentin Cunev was scheduled for the first half of June. Cunev was to discuss issues concerning interstate collaboration in the

fields of transportation, economics, and exploitation of sea vacation houses. The visit was postponed because the new Ukrainian chamber of ministers was not yet formed.

Romanian Government Delegation Visits Chisinau

AU2306072794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2055 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 18/6/1994—A Romanian Governmental delegation, led by the head of the Direction for Relations with Moldova of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and secretary of the Romanian Inter Ministry Committee, Gheorghe Savuica, visited Chisinau this week. The visit was made according to the agreement signed at the reunion of the Romanian and Moldova Inter Ministry committees held 15 February in Bucharest. Dorin Cimpoiesu, first secretary of the Romanian Embassy to Chisinau, stated to BASA that the purpose of this visit was to analyze progress regarding economic integration and consolidation of the common spiritual area and to prepare new projects for future joint reunions to be held in Chisinau. The Romanian delegation met with Governmental representatives. Cimpoiesu pointed out that the secretaries of the two Inter Ministry Committees met with the management of the sanitation equipment plant in Falesti and TEPRO plant in Iasi to discuss the common project of constructing a pipeline.

Foreign Official Discusses Appointment of Envoy to Moscow

AU2206201994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2150 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 17/6/1994—No new ambassador to Russia was named after Anatol Taranu's recent resignation. Alexandru Buruian, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, declared to BASA that "the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not yet nominated any candidate to the post of ambassador to the Russian Federation. Decisions of this type are first examined by state leaders," he mentioned. Buruian affirmed that the views of the future ambassador on the problem of the 14th Army's withdrawal will not constitute a criterion of selection for the future chief of the Moldovan diplomatic mission to Moscow. "The fact that previously the Moldovan delegation at the negotiations was headed by the ex-ambassador to Russia Anatol; scan was rather a coincidence. In my opinion, the activity of the ambassador could have been more efficient if he had not led the Moldovan party at the negotiations. The activity of the ambassador to Russia should involve all aspects of the Moldovan-Russian relations, while the 14th Army problem is just one element of these relations," stressed the Moldovan vice-minister of foreign affairs.

Foreign Affairs Official Discusses 14th Army Withdrawal

AU2206201294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2150 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 17/6/1994—The recent meeting of the Moldovan and Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs reconfirmed the intention to finalize a timetable for the 14th Army's withdrawal in the 9th round of negotiations to be held in Chisinau, stated to BASA Vasile Sova, head of the CIS Direction of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the Moscow negotiations, the Russian side proposed to withdraw the 14th Army within three years of the signing of the basic agreement. Taking into account Russia's experience in this field, the Moldovan side proposed that the troops located in Eastern Moldova be withdrawn within 1.5 years by 1 January 1996, mentioned Sova. Experts will have to examine thoroughly the technical conditions for the withdrawal by using the method approved by the military departments of the both sides in the eighth round of negotiations held in April. An agreement was reached on the share of expenses to be defrayed by Moldova for the relocation of the Russian troops. According to Sova, Chisinau proposed to deploy the funds earned from the sales of the 14th Army's properties. It was proposed that Russian soldiers have the right to privatize the flats they inhabited in Moldova and to use the profits from the sales to buy others in Russia. The Moldovan delegation opposed the allotment of funds for Russian soldiers from the Moldovan budget. Sova said that the Moldovan budget did not provide for such expenses. According to him, during a meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian and Moldovan diplomatic departments, Chisinau was assured that Kiev officials will not oppose the Russian troops' crossing of the Ukraine. "We have no reasons for believing that the Ukraine will be an obstacle, but this is a delicate issue that requires elaboration of detailed plans for the withdrawal," mentioned Sova.

Military Experts View Possibility of 14th Army Withdrawal

AU2306073694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2150 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 17/6/1994—According to the estimations of the Moldovan Ministry of Defense (MD) experts, all units of the 14th Russian Army could be withdrawn within four months after the necessary documents are signed, declared to BASA Colonel Ion Gurulea, chief of the MD Engineering Department, permanent member of the Moldovan delegation at the Moldovan-Russian negotiations on the withdrawal of the 14th Army. Gurulea specified that the document stipulating the withdrawal of these troops forces both Russia and Moldova to negotiate with the Ukraine concerning the transportation of the armament on its railways. Anatol Cosciug, chief of the MD Department of Military Policy and Negotiations, declared to BASA that technically all the units of the 14th Army can be

withdrawn in the time-frame suggested by the Moldovan delegation, the deadline being 31 December 1995-1 January 1996. Cosciug also stated that the political aspect of the problem is often exaggerated, as the withdrawal of the Russian troops is also conditioned by the socio-political situation in Dniester. The cited source also specified that no alterations were made in the technical aspects of the agreements.

Parliament Ratifies CIS Agreement on Property Recognition

AU2306074194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2150 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 17/6/1994—Yesterday, 16 June, the Moldovan Parliament ratified the Agreement on mutual recognition of rights and settlement of property ownership within the CIS. Promoting the necessity of ratifying the October 1992 agreement signed in Bishkek by nine states, Andrei Cucu, privatization vice minister, stated that this agreement pertains first of all to Russia, where Moldova possesses 11 wine plants, three construction organizations and numerous branches of joint ventures founded by Moldovan economic agents. Russia, in its turn, has several enterprises in Moldova and the largest is the "Sovtransavto" haulage enterprise. Russia ratified the Bishkek agreement in November 1993. Cucu told BASA that most important is that Russia will recognize Moldova's rights over its properties in Russian territory. Thus, a proper foundation for their future privatization will be created. "Our enterprises in Russia employ Russian personnel and, vice versa, Russian enterprises in Moldova employ Moldovan personnel who will be allowed to participate in their privatization," said Cucu. The Ukraine did not sign the mutual property rights agreement. Cucu mentioned that an accord with the Ukraine will be established through a bilateral agreement which is now being elaborated. He pointed out that the agreement mainly concerns the numerous vacation houses located in the Ukraine. Cucu said that in 1993 Russia and the Ukraine signed an agreement on recognizing the rights over the properties located outside their borders.

Police Intercept Radioactive Cargo From Russia

LD2206184094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1522 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The Moldovan police held a cargo with a radioactive substance from Russia Tuesday [22 June]. Officials in the Interior Ministry's organized crime department told INTERFAX that one Russian and two Moldovan citizens had been apprehended as they tried to smuggle a radioactive substance into Moldova and sell it for $20,000.

The officials said that gamma-cobalt-60 had been obtained and put into a container in Russia and that the weight of the cargo and its destination were being determined.

This is the first time the Moldovan police have found material of this high quality and packed so thoroughly. A small radioactive leak was detected that could be hazardous.

Experts from the Moldovan Academy of Sciences are trying to determine to what use the cobalt was to be put.

The officials also said that a Romanian citizen is suspected of being the customer who had ordered the cargo but there was insufficient evidence for his arrest.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Explains Reshuffle, 'Anticrisis Policy'

LD2206163294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 118 (608); compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev has said in a televised interview the latest changes he made to the structure of executive government and the personnel reshuffles in the cabinet were linked with what he described as a new anti-crisis policy developed by the government.

President Nazarbayev said the anti-crisis program would be discussed in parliament in a few days and then approved by the President.

President Nazarbayev said the government of Kazakhstan had proposed a "team prepared to act on it." He said he had agreed with the proposed reorganization of ministries, personnel changes to the cabinet and the leadership of some ministries and authorities in regions and in the capital

President Nazarbayev believes that "new, younger people having a good idea of what business and economic reform are about have joined the Cabinet". In particular, he emphasized the appointment of 40-year-old Kozykorpesh Yesenberlin as Chairman of the State Property Committee and 32-year-old Galymzhan Zhakiyanov as head of the Semipalatinsk regional administration. Both have a record of work in "commercial structures."

President Nazarbayev said that the government would be given carte blanche for 15 months to act on the program, and the presidential staff and the president himself would closely monitor progress in its implementation. The future of the government will be decided upon the end of the term. "If the program is not implemented, the Cabinet will resign," President Nazarbayev said.

President: Governments Must Fulfill Promises or Leave

LD2206131494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Report by KAZTAG correspondent Konstantin Borodnikov for TASS]

[Text] Almaty 22 June TASS—I tried to make sure that new competent officials come forth to lead, who know what is business, banking system and today's reforms, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan said talking to ITAR-TASS. He was commenting upon serious changes made in the Republic's power body structures and reshuffles during the past short period.

"Lately the government was working out a programme of its actions which will be presented to the Supreme Soviet. Under the new programme, the new government will form a team and together with it carry out the programme," the Kazakh president said. According to Nazarbayev, among reappointed ministers and chiefs of departments are mainly those who took part in preparing the programme.

Nazarbayev also said that the president's office will strictly monitor the fulfillment of the programme proposed to the government. There is nothing to be surprised at, Nazarbayev emphasised. According to him, in all civilized democratic countries of the world every government comes forward with a definite programme which it puts before the society. The people accept it and allot time to fulfill it. Together with the fate of such a programme the fate of the government is also decided. If the government is able to cope with its work, it is normal. If the government does not fulfill its promises, it must resign, the Kazakh president said.

Nazarbayev Resolution on Supporting Entrepreneurship

LD2206192994 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1430 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Resolution by Kazakh President Nazarbayev on the state program for supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 1994-96:

In accordance with the Resolution No. 1655 of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 13 April 1994 "On the State Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Supporting and Encouraging Entrepreneurship," I decree:

1. To approve the state program for supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1994-96. (enclosed [KAZTAG note; not further explained])

2. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan should take the nessessary steps to fulfill the state program for supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1994-96, and within two weeks it should elaborate on and endorse a draft plan of measures and tasks aimed at implementing the program. If necessary, it should make annual adjustments to the plan of measures and tasks aimed at implementing the program.

3. Heads of regional, Almaty, and Leninsk city administrations should elaborate on specific measures aimed at implementing the state program for supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1994-96, which will take into consideration regional characteristics.

[Signed] President Nazarbayev Almaty,
[Dated] 10 June 1994.

Foreign Minister, Armenian Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD2206145894 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1430 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Kanat Saudabayev has received the Armenian charge d'affaires Arman Melekyan. They exchanged views on relations between Kazakhstan and Armenia. The sides emphasized the need for invigorating bilateral cooperation, especially in the sphere of the economy.

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Article in Russian Newspaper

LD2206195694 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry noted an article published recently in [name indistinct] a Russian newspaper titled "Russia Has Become a Testing Site for Exotic Spies." It contains a reference to a statement made by Baturin, assistant to the Russian president on national security, who doubted the ability of our republic to control its borders properly with China. The Foreign Ministry press service is obligated to inform relevant parties that in accordance with the information given by reliable sources, illegal attempts to cross the border are not numerous. Transgressors are usually always detained. As far as border control is concerned, a visa agreement on traveling between Kazakhstan and China, which envisages the need for exit-entry visas for trips by citizens of both Kazakhstan and China, was concluded. Such conclusions on the ability of an independent country to defend its borders should be based on facts, the more so because the Republic's relevant services exchange border information on a regular basis with the leadership of the Russian border troops.

Nazarbayev, Kyrgyz Prime Minister Discuss Raw Materials

LD2206134294 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0100 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Yesterday President Nazarbayev received Abbas Dzhumagulov, prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, who arrived in Almaty on a working visit. Talks between the Kazakh and Kyrgyz Government delegations led by Prime Ministers Tereshchenko and Dzhumagulov, followed. Attention was focused on the progress of implementation of the trade and cooperation agreement and on discussion of Kazakh debt for electric power equal to $55 million. An intergovernmental protocol was signed on implementation of the trade and economic cooperation as well as an agreement that Kazakhstan will begin this year and continue until 2000 to export raw materials containing uranium to Kyrgyzstan. The prime ministers of both countries told journalists that the working visit of the Kyrgyz delegation began a new spiral in the trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

PRC Cooperation Union Head Visits Mangistau Oblast

LD2206122994 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0100 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Chairman of the Chinese Xinjian-Uigur autonomous region cooperators' union (Van Xin Tao) arrived in Atyrau on a working visit. He familiarized himself with the work of his Mangistau colleagues and with industrial enterprises and resources of the oblast. He met the head of the oblast consumer cooperation and discussed possibilities of developing bilateral mutually advantageous trade. He signed an agreement with the Kazkor joint stock company on annual procurement of 150-200 tonnes of [word indistinct]. The Chinese also intend to buy black wool. They invited their Mangistau colleagues and representatives of Kazkor to participate in an international fair to be held later in the year in Urumqi.

Economy Lacks Funds to Continue Economic Restructuring

LD2306110394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0942 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Sergey Tereshchenko told parliament on Thursday [23 Jun] that Kazakhstan had run out of money to continue the economic restructuring program.

He said that economic restructuring was unthinkable without foreign loans and that a preparatory period of about 15 months was needed to secure them.

The government is proposing a three-stage program, said Tereshchenko. In June to December 1995, the main accent will be put on domestic resources, the rate of inflation will be lowered to about 10 percent and relative stabilization of the national currency will be attained.

From January to September 1995, the government intends to secure a medium-term credit, accelerate integration with Russia and the CIS countries, and receive loans from the G7.

The third stage will mark the beginning of a new economic course, he said. Foundations for enhancing the population's living standards and promoting industrial production will be laid. The government will continue to pursue a tough anti-inflation policy, lower taxes, carry out a banking reform and accelerate privatization.

Tereshchenko said that "one could no longer implement reform without financing the social sphere." "Otherwise, reforms will be resisted," he said.

He also said that the national funds must be spent with care and urged the parliament to support the government-proposed budget. "If we manage to implement a tough budget, the task of securing foreign loans will be much easier," he said.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev on Euro-Asian Union; Ties With Russia, U.S.

LD2306091294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, 23 June (ITAR-TASS)—"Earlier or later we shall arrive at an alliance [words indistinct] Euro-Asian union. It had better be done now, without bloodshed and fighting, President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan said in an interview published by the MOSCOW NEWS weekly [no end quotes, as received].

"Within the European Community small countries secured a position for themselves in which bigger countries are allowed less dictate," he said. "This is the aim of the European Union. I understand why certain circles in Russia are opposed to Nazarbayev's idea—it is easier to dictate when the Commonwealth is in its present state, within a union, account must be taken of the interests of smaller states [sentence as received]. But there is no alternative, the way of dictatorship will inevitably make Russia weaker," Akayev said.

"Russia is a priority direction of our foreign policy. Unfortunately, trade and economic relations with the Russian Federation are shrinking, it now ranks third after Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. But even when we do not meet with reciprocity, we can look only to Russia for protection. We were among the first to support the establishment of the collective security council within the frame of the Commonwealth of Independent States."

"While among the former Soviet republics we lean on Russia for support, beyond this boundaries great moral support comes from the United States. The United States is the main donor to our programme of democratisation and transition to a market economy," the president said.

Kyrgyzstan Agrees to Write Off Kazakh Electricity Debts

LD2106164194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have reached an agreement on writing off Kazakhstan's debt to the neighboring state for electricity. The debt amounts to $55 million.

Presidential Exec Says Economy Slipping to 'African' Level

LD2206194394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1557 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] It will not be long before Kyrgyzstan slips down to the level of African countries, presidential adviser for social and economic matters Talai Koichumanov told INTERFAX Wednesday [22 June].

The country's three-year economic restructuring plan may prove unworkable unless Dushanbe gets credits from the IMF and donor countries, he said.

Koichumanov said Kyrgyz industry was in need of updating and some loss-making businesses should be liquidated.

He said the budget was being filled only to half its requirements and the bulk of expenditure sent to cover social needs. Taxation rather than industrial earnings is the main sources of government revenues, he said.

In his view, government resources are being channeled to meet social needs such as grain, energy and medical imports with money spent for "consumption rather than production."

Koichumanov said that nothing short of foreign credits and investment could help lead the country out of the crisis. For this to happen, he said, maximum incentives must be set to attract foreign investors, particularly leading transnational corporations.

Tajikistan

Opposition Forces Gather on Gorno-Badakhshan Border

LD2206115794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] As many as 900 fighters of the Tajik opposition have accumulated on the Afghan territory on the border with Gorno-Badakhshan (Tajikistan's autonomous region), the press bureau of the Russian border forces reported to INTERFAX Wednesday [22 June]. According to the press bureau, the greatest number of fighters has been registered in the Afghan kishlaks (villages) of Andzhiz, Yapur, and Veski.

Since 18 June, Russia border guards prevented five attempts of the armed groups of the Tajik opposition to penetrate the border from the Afghan territory on the sections of the Pyanj, Moskovskiy, and Khorog frontier detachments.

According to available information, leaders of the Tajik opposition have ordered the fighters of the so called Kumsangirsko-Pyanj and Kulyab fronts to conduct a series of subversive acts against the frontier detachments of the Pyanj and Moskovskiy frontier detachments and against the civilian population living in Tajikistan's Khatlon Region.

Leaders of drug and mafia circles have made two attempts to block the military cantonment of the frontier detachment and one of the detachment's posts on the territory of Gorno-Badakhshan since 18 June.

According to the press bureau, the command and leadership of the Russian frontier forces in Tajikistan are undertaking all appropriate measures to guard and defend the border.

'Illegal Rally' Demands Resignation of Oblast Officials

LD2206125594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Resignation of the officials of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast of Tajikistan was demanded by the participants of a small illegal rally, which took place in Khorog, the administrative center of the oblast.

A correspondent of the ITAR-TASS news agency was told this by an independent and well-informed source of Gorno-Badakhshan.

The demonstrators, among whom were many women and old people, accused the local authorities of being unable to end legal tyranny and the growth of organized crime.

The demonstrators pointed out that the processes of surrendering weapons, which are illegally kept by the population, and the disbanding of illegal armed formations are extremely slow in Khorog as well as in other rayons of the autonomous oblast. [words indistinct]

Saydamir Zukhurov, minister of security, confirmed the report on illegal rally in Khorog. However, according to his words there were no demands of resignation of the oblast's leadership. The people wanted to learn from the officials of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast when law and order finally would be established on the territory of the autonomous oblast and after receiving full and specific answers the demonstrators peacefully went away, stated Zukhurov, minister of security of Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan

'Civilized' and Humane Solution to Russians' Problems

PM2206134994 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 5

[Report by Grigoriy Kolodin: "In a Civilized and Humane Manner. This Is How Turkmenistan and Russia Are Resolving Questions of Dual Citizenship and Migration"]

[Text] Turkmenistan—When, during a one-day visit to Ashgabat on the eve of the December meeting of Commonwealth heads of state, Boris Yeltsin and Saparmurad Niyazov signed an agreement on dual citizenship and regulation of the process of migration, the majority of their CIS counterparts perceived this event as unexpected and partly sensational. After all, the attitude of the leaders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, for instance, toward the institution of dual citizenship is well known. They consider it unsuitable for the countries and peoples they head, one citing a possible decline of patriotism, and the other classifying the... indigenous population as Russian-speakers. Let me say straight away that a couple of years ago even President S. Niyazov, to put it mildly, was not a particularly ardent supporter of concluding a treaty on dual citizenship with anybody. However, in making a decisive contribution to the preparation and conclusion of the agreements, creating for the first time in nearby foreign countries a civilized legal basis for the status of Russians permanently resident on Turkmenistan's territory, and having advocated the states' responsibility as regards the fate of migrants, the Turkmen leader has proved yet again that uppermost in his mind is not personal ambition, but the interests of actual people.

After all, the life and status of Slavs in Turkmenistan were and remain perhaps by far the most propitious among the millions of their compatriots who overnight became foreigners in their own homes after the great power's collapse. One of the very first laws adopted by the parliament of the now independent state proclaimed that the incitement of interethnic strife and the infringement of citizens' rights on the grounds of their belonging to a different nation or religion is a crime of the utmost severity. But, of course, this is not just a matter of lawmaking: The main point is that, through the tangible actions of the leadership in this difficult transition period, public accord and calm were successfully preserved here, and the honoring of social guarantees for all categories of citizens without exception was ensured. The exceptionally good relations, which have developed on the new basis of sovereignty with greater Russia have played a far from insignificant role.

"Good relations are a remarkable thing," V. Cherepov, the Russian Federation's ambassador in Turkmenistan, told me. "But in proclaiming the aspiration to occupy a worthy place in the ranks of civilized states, we must switch all problems to a lawful channel. I agree that Russians here are somewhat better off than even our compatriots in the majority of Russia's regions. But nevertheless, just look at how many problems emerge when a family breaks up. Here, a vast unified country has collapsed, customs posts have been erected, national currencies have been introduced, and today, at times, people do not even get the chance to bury close relatives who have died in another, now also independent, republic. Look at the burden of migrants. Let me point out that the process of the migration of Russians from Turkmenistan is not a new phenomenon—it has been going on since the 1970's. But whereas at that time migration could be compared with a couple of small fires, nowadays it is more like a universal catastrophe, the reasons for which do not need to be spelled out to anybody, I think."

Every day, from early morning, a small crowd of people gather by the gates of the Russian Embassy. Similar things, no doubt, can be seen at the Russian Federation missions in many other former fraternal republics. The difference is that, although Russians in the Baltic Region are asking for assistance to regain civil rights and those in Dushanbe and Tbilisi are begging for help to escape "to anywhere," here in Ashgabat people are coming to find out when they will be able to apply for dual citizenship, and which rights and opportunities it offers them.

Armenia

Parliament Ratifies Treaty on Russian Troop Status

LD2206191994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan June 22 TASS—The Armenian parliament ratified today a treaty on the legal status of Russian troops deployed on the territory of the republic. However lawmakers imposed several conditions. The number and features of the conditions are not clear so far.

135 MPs voted for the decision, and only four members of the Armenian Communist Party voted against it. The latter insisted that the treaty should be ratified without any further conditions.

'Temporary' Trade Rules for Iranian Border Set

NC2206200894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1110 GMT 22 Jun 94

["Temporary Rules of Armenia-Iran Border Trade"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Yerevan, 22 June (SNARK)—Armenian citizens were given the right for a tax-free export and import of goods into the trade zone at the Armenia-Iran border, for a total sum not exceeding $1,000. In the case the amount is surpassed, a tax is imposed on goods under the valid agreement. According to Armenian Government decision issued today, barter trade is also allowed in the zone.

IAEA Delegation To Inspect Nuclear Power Station

NC2206195594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1346 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Yerevan, June 22 (SNARK)—The representatives of IAEA arrive in Yerevan today. The main aim of the arrival is visiting the Armenian Atomic Nuclear Station, checking the seismosteadiness and controlling the frame of reactor.

Russian Envoy Links Karabakh Recognition With Armenian Move

NC2206142194 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1127 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Yerevan ("YERKIR" daily—HAYLUR), 06/22/94—Russian Ambassador to Armenia Vladimir Stupishin said, status of the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] is to be defined within the framework of international negotiations and should be advantageous for the Artsakh people, giving them real security guarantees.

During an interview with Acting Editor in Chief of "MK [Mountainous Karabakh] Republic" newspaper G. Bagdasaryan on June 18, he related recognition of Mountainous Karabakh by Russia with a corresponding decision by Armenia.

According to Stupishin, the relations between Armenia and Russia are direct and are based on their independence. The relations with the RMK are dependent on international recognition of the latter.

Relatively Peaceful Situation at Front Lines Reported

NC2206192894 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army Headquarters reports that the situation on the Karabakh front line has not changed. there were no serious incidents over the past day. However, Azerbaijan's military forces fired on the Armenian defense positions with various types of arms from time to time. The Armenian side refrained from returning the fire.

No serious incidents occurred on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan during the past day. The situation is relatively peaceful. However, it is difficult to predict how long the peaceful situation will continue. Everything depends on Azerbaijan. As a rule, Azerbaijan's aggressive operations cause serious incidents in the region. The Armenian side continues to heed the cease-fire agreement along the border.

Grachev Caucasus Visits Assessed

944K1505A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 17 Jun 94 p 1

[Article by Artem Yerkanyan: "I Came, I Saw, I Signed. On General Grachev's Visit to the Transcaucasus"]

[Text] Russia has no intention of conceding the Transcaucasus to anyone. The latest confirmation of this obvious fact was the last visit to the region by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, which demonstrated the seriousness of Moscow's intentions. Was the Kremlin satisfied with the results of the Caucasian voyage of the chief of the military department? Most likely it was, although the Russian general was not received in all the Caucasian capitals with the courtesy to which he had every right to lay claim.

There was no doubt that Grachev would not have any problems in Yerevan. The question of deploying a contingent of the Russian Army on the territory of Armenia was decided long before the ceremony for signing the corresponding agreement, the conclusion of which, incidentally, was welcomed by all political groups of the republic without exception. The reaction to the agreement on Russia's military presence in Georgia was, of course, not as unambiguous. And there were even quite

contradictory stories about the expediency, admissibility, and correctness of the participation of Russian peacekeeping forces in the resolution of the Abkhazian conflict stipulated in the document that was signed in Tbilisi with the approval of the Abkhazian and Georgian parliaments.

It is most difficult of all to assess the results of the negotiations in Baku, since the meeting of the Russian minister with the president of Azerbaijan took place behind closed doors, and it is hardly a good idea to believe the information that leaks through them. Both parties are trying to convince the mass media that the future of the Gabarlinskaya radar station was the main subject of discussion at the meeting. And this means that so far no definite success has been achieved in the question of reaching agreement about the Russian plan for regulating the Abkhazian conflict. There is no reason to expect that Azerbaijan will give way on its positions, since Geydar Aliyev had just returned from Istanbul at that time. The meetings on the Turkish land, of course, reinforced the Azerbaijani leader's belief in the "correctness of the chosen path." At the same time Aliyev had nothing with which to counter the persistence of the Kremlin emissary, as a result of which, official Baku, judging from everything, has recognized the inevitability of conceding to the Russian military the right to "be in charge" at the Gabarlinskaya radar station. The final "i" will be dotted during the visit of the Azerbaijani defense minister to Moscow, which was recently arranged for an unspecified date. Then one can expect a more definite response from Azerbaijan to the Russian peace initiative.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Meeting With Cuban Official Detailed

NC2206190?94 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev received Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Lionel Soto on 21 June.

[Reporter Sakit Ocakli] Matters of mutual concern to both states were touched upon during the meeting. The guest conveyed Cuban leader Fidel Castro's greetings to Geydar Aliyev, and invited the president to pay an official visit to Cuba whenever he wanted. The Azerbaijani president thanked him for the sincere invitation, indicated that he has great respect for the Cuban leader Fidel Castro and the Cuban people, and in his turn invited the Cuban leaders, the Fidel and Raul Castro brot!ers, to visit Azerbaijan.

Geydar Aliyev briefed the guest on the developments in Azerbaijan in recent years, especially on Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani soil. He added that the international organizations, particularly the CSCE and the Minsk Group, are trying to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Geydar Aliyev said that our brave sons, who are defending their motherland and waging a struggle for the indivisibility of the homeland, are courageously facing the enemy.

The guest said that Cuban society knows about the Karabakh conflict, and the members of the Cuban delegation indicated that, moved by the adage that you find out who are your true friends when times get tough, they are ready to help Azerbaijan in every way.

Matters pertaining to cooperation between the two states were broached during the meeting.

President Receives Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister

NC2206151194 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1300 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev received today the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Morteza Sarmadi. Here is a report by our correspondent Sakit Ocagli:

[Ocagli] Various fields of cooperation with neighboring Iran were discussed during the formal talks. Geydar Aliyev noted that a number of documents on cooperation were signed during Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Baku last October and that special care is being taken to implement these documents.

The Azerbaijani president said he was deeply disturbed by the tragedy that occurred near Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad on the day of 'Ashura, a holy day for all Moslems. He hoped that those individuals who showed (?hostility) to the sacred place of pilgrimage on that day will certainly be found and punished. Geydar Aliyev once again conveyed his condolences to the Iranian people in connection with the tragedy.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Morteza Sarmadi said that as part of his contacts in Azerbaijan he visited the Ministry of Culture, the Azerbaijani State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, and the Information Ministry, and briefed the president on his contacts and talks at these institutions. The Iranian guest noted that the talks on cooperation with Azerbaijan in the information field concluded that the two neighboring states, which have similar and close position on many issues, should pay attention to developing cultural ties.

Morteza Sarmadi also spoke of his contacts at the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry. In his view, all his contacts during the visit was fruitful and constructive exchanges of views were held on problems needing solution.

The Azerbaijani President regarded his upcoming visit to Iran as yet another sign of the fruitfulness of today's talk. Noting the great importance of the upcoming visit, the Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev stressed the need to broaden the multifaceted cooperation with Iran.

Experts Begin Offshore Oil Exploration for Iran

NC2206205094 Baku TURAN in English 1712 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Baku, June 22 (TURAN)—Khoshbakht Jusifzade, vice- president of State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) told TURAN, that vessel "Zokhrab Veliyev" will depart at the beginning of July to Iranian for conducting exploration works on Caspian offshore according to bilateral contract, signed on May 7, 1994. According to contract Azeri specialists will conduct exploration, geophysical and drilling works on Iranian offshore. The second stage of works will be conducted on the vessel "Rezonance".

The contract costs three million dollars. According to Jusifzade, approximately 100 oilmen will be sent to Iran for implementation of the contract.

Experts To Determine Legal Status of Caspian Sea Oil

NC2206210794 Baku TURAN in English 1712 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Baku, June 22 (TURAN)—An agreement for allocation of a credit totalling 400,000 dollars was obtained between SOCAR [State Oil Company of Azerbaijan] and representatives of the World Bank. This amount will be spent on payment of experts, dealing with preparing the legal basis for oil fields' development in the Caspian Sea. This document will be based on the provisions and norms of international law, TURAN was told by SOCAR.

Early in June Russia's Foreign Ministry addressed with a statement, demanding to give Russia its share of riches of the Caspian Sea. Such actions of Russia excited members of the Consortium of western Oil Companies on the development of Azeri and Shirag oil fields in Azerbaijan section of the Caspian Sea.

The World Bank is also going to allocate a credit totalling 11.6 million dollars for financial needs in gas and oil spheres.

Bread Shortage Continues Despite Grain Shipment

NC2206140694 Baku TURAN in English 1127 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Baku (June 21) TURAN—Although the prices for bread were increased, the bread deficit in Azerbaijan still remains. The State Concern for bread products told TURAN that grain deliveries are delayed due to tension at the North-Caucasian railway.

The same source also said that 200 cars with grain travelling to Azerbaijan are presently at that railway.

On June 17 Turkey shipped 24,000 tons of grain to Azerbaijan. According to specialists, this grain delivery is unable to solve bread deficit in the country where every-day need in bread totals more than 2,000 tons.

An employee of the State Concern for bread products said that those who live in villages come to Baku to buy bread since, actually, bread is not delivered to Azerbaijani republics [plural as received]. This fact worsens the bread deficit in Azerbaijan as well.

President Dismisses, Appoints Regional Officials

NC2206152494 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1300 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] By decree of the Azerbaijani president, Seyavush Mamed ogly Velimamedov has been relieved of his post of head of Agdamskiy Rayon Executive Authority.

Elman Ferman ogly Allahverdiyev has been appointed head of the Terterskiy [Mir-Bashirskiy] Rayon Executive Authority. Serdar Nedzhit ogly Hamidov was relieved from this post.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Hails Russian Peacekeeping Mission

Receives Yeltsin Message

LD2206183994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1730 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 22 Jun—Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of the Georgian state, has received Vladimir Zemskoy, Russia's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia, at the latter's request.

The Russian ambassador handed the head of state a letter from the Russian Federation president in which Boris Yeltsin expresses profound confidence that friendship and cooperation between Russia and Georgia will continue for the benefit of our states.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Ambassador Zemskoy discussed the decision to introduce Russian peacekeeping forces into the Abkhazian conflict zone. This decision was adopted by the Russian Federation Council. The head of state noted that he attaches particular significance to this decision. In his opinion, this international move by Russia is of historic significance, not only for Georgia. The success of this move may serve to guarantee stability in Transcaucasia. In that event, Russia's prestige in the world will grow considerably, because the responsibility taken by an individual country in cooperation with an international organization for such a serious move acquires the power of positive example for other countries.

Comments on Abkhaz Peace Process

LD2206153694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1410 GMT 22 Jun 94

["Eduard Shevardnadze: 'There Is No Problem Between the Georgians and Abkhazians Which We Cannot Solve'"—ITAR-TASS headline; by unidentified GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 22 Jun—The process of achieving a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia is, naturally, of great significance for Georgia but, at the same time, it is an important factor in stabilizing the situation in the northern Caucasus as well, Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze said at a news conference today.

As for the political status of Abkhazia, noted Shevardnadze, we can look at any proposal by the Abkhazian side within the framework of a united and indivisible Georgia. We are willing to grant Abkhazia the kind of status that would be in line with the highest world standards.

Commenting on the recent Georgian-Ossetian talks in Vladikavkaz, Shevardnadze gave a positive assessment of their results, which have made agreement possible on the issues of the reopening of transport links, the movement of people on the territory of the conflict zone, joint work to combat crime, etc.

Regarding conflicts in other regions of the Caucasus and the Karabakh problem in particular, the head of state said that the success of the peacekeeping mission in Abkhazia could well stimulate positive processes in Karabakh as well.

Analyzing the causes of the tragedies that have befallen Georgia in recent years, Shevardnadze said that they followed from the incorrect and erroneous policy toward Russia chosen by Georgia after the break-up of the USSR. He stressed that it was because of this policy that the country had become totally isolated, which had led, in particular, to the loss of Abkhazia.

Calls Russian Troops 'Decisive'

NC2206201794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1244 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Tbilisi, June 22 (SNARK)—Today Eduard Shevardnadze made the statement at the press conference which took place in the Georgia's parliament.

"Speaking on the reasons of the Abkhazia's tragedy we should take into consideration the general political context, the background of the tragic events taken place in Abkhazia", said the Head of the Georgian state. "The most important factor is the syndrome of some alienation and distrust between Russia and Georgia arisen in the period of the USSR's break-up and just after it has taken place. This confrontation during a long period of time wasn't overcome but, on the contrary, was strengthened". But the authorities of two states did their best to overcome this dangerous tendency and establish relations of good neighbors. The visit of Boris Yeltsin which took place in February 1994 became the decisive factor, according to the opinion expressed by Eduard Shevardnadze.

The basic point in the conflict's settlement is the effective cooperation which was established between Russia and Georgia, from the one hand, and the UNO [United Nations Organization], its General Secretary and the Security Council, the CSCE and the whole international community from the other. The cooperation will settle the military, technical, humanitarian and other problems connected with settlement of the conflict.

Answering the questions of journalists, Eduard Shevardnadze stated that the decisive word to the settlement of the conflict will be said by the Russian peace-keeping forces. Russia may be trusted in. The guarantee is the fact that "great political forces" are united round the conflict. The introduction of the peace-keeping troops into the zone of the conflict doesn't touch the political status of Abkhazia. The latter will be solved at the negotiations under the aegis of the UN with the intermediary role of Russia and "friends of Georgia"—the Western states.

Stresses Importance of Solution

NC2206200294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1247 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Tbilisi, June 22 (SNARK)—"If we manage to achieve a considerable progress in cause of Abkhazian conflict's settlement, a process of general stabilization in Caucasian region will begin", declared Eduard Shevardnadze in his interview to SNARK.

Answering the question on the ways of the Karabakh problem's settlement, the Head of Georgian State mentioned that the Abkhazian conflict's settlement will be a great spur for solving all the conflicts in Transcaucasia with the participation of Russia.

"The form of the Abkhazian conflict's settlement is unique and it will be a good example in searching the ways of solving the Karabakh conflict", said the Head of Georgian State.

Russian Mine-Clearing Teams Begin Work in Abkhazia

LD2306083994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Gudauta June 23 TASS—Russian mine-clearers have made two check points and four observation points in Gali (Abkhazia) safe for use. Gali has become the headquarters of the Russian peace- keeping troops in the western security zone.

The mine-clearing operations in Gali, along the Georgian- Abkhazian conflict line, was the result of the Russian peace-keeping mission's first day of work, ITAR-TASS was told on Thursday by Colonel Aleksandr Luchaninov, the Russian Defence Ministry's spokesman in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone.

According to the colonel, a battalion of field engineers is using technical means and mine-seeking dogs to conduct the mine-clearing operations in the locality where the peace-keeping forces will be stationed. The Russian military need to hastily put up almost 40 block houses on an area of more than one thousand square kilometres.

Luchaninov reported that the Russian military are now preparing the text of an appeal to the population of Abkhazia. The peace- keepers will use the local mass media and distribute leaflets to explain the goals and purposes of the Russian peace-keeping mission. The most important conditions for the fulfillment of those goals, the spokesman said, are the surrender of arms by the population in the danger zone on the Inguri river, and the withdrawal of heavy weapons, armoured vehicles, and artillery to the positions agreed upon in the Georgian-Abkhazian agreement signed May 15 of this year.

Luchaninov said that the Russian military personnel were determined to put a halt to any illegal actions directed against the peace-keepers, and were ready to shoot to kill without warning.

Shevardnadze Issues Privatization Decree

LD2206221994 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The Georgian head of state has issued a decree on certain aspects of carrying out the privatization of state property in the republic's regions. In accordance with the head of state's decree, commissions are to be established to conduct an in-depth study of individual cases of state property privatization and cases of uncontrolled privatization. Local branches of the relevant ministries and departments are to decide promptly on the inclusion of individual enterprises into the privatization lists and to present agreed proposals to the Ministry of State Property Management. Local bodies of authority are to use economic methods to assist in the process of managing the enterprises which have already been privitized and utilizing their industrial potential. In order to distribute vouchers among the population, the process of compiling the lists of the republic's citizens and their presentation to the Ministry of State Property Management should be speeded up. Apart from the Ministry of State Property Management, the heads of towns and rayons are to assume personal responsibility for implementing this task.

Shevardnadze Discusses Cooperation With Pentagon Delegation

LD2206191694 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] A U.S. Defense Deparment delegation led by Brigadier General Baumann, the head of training for the 7th Army, is visiting Georgia.

[Correspondent] The visit was agreed upon last spring in the United States, when the visiting Georgian head of state met Defense Secretary William Perry. The Pentagon delegation has already met the leadership of the Georgian Defense Ministry. The delegation was briefed on the process of army construction in Georgia and the problems being encountered.

Today, the guests were received by Eduard Shevardnadze. He told them that the cooperation agreement signed last spring is already working and that this visit by military experts is a testimony to that. Today, when the Georgian Army is still in the early days of its development, learning from the Pentagon's experience would be a priceless opportunity for us.

Discussing Clinton's Partnership for Peace initiative, which our republic was among the first in the CIS to join, Eduard Shevardnadze said that the introduction of peacekeeping forces to Abkhazia would signal the beginning of a new stage in settling the conflict there.

At the end of the meeting, Brig. Gen. Baumann said that the delegation came to Georgia on the instructions of Defense Secretary Perry. We arrived here to meet officials from the Georgian Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs and members of Parliament, said the general. We would like to discuss venues for cooperation and to determine our common interests.

Answering a question about his vision for cooperation, the general said: First of all, we should study issues relating to the training of the Georgian Army. It would be interesting to learn how Georgia intends to develop its Army. We would like to share with you our experience in this sphere.

The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Varden Nadibaidze; U.S. Ambassador Kent Brown; Petre Chkheidze, Georgian ambassador to the United States; and officials from the office of the head of state.

Defense Ministry Reorganizes; Deputy Ministers Appointed

LD2206184894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The CONTACT news agency provided us with information from the Defense Ministry press center that work is continuing to reduce the Defense Ministry's structure and improve its efficiency. Several deputy defense minister positions were abolished. A new position of first deputy defense minister of the Republic of

Georgia was created, who is to be responsible for rear front construction and troop disposition [zurgis mshenebloba da jarebis gantavseba].

By a decree of the Georgian head of state, Colonel Razhden Bitsadze has been appointed first deputy defense minister of the Republic of Georgia responsible for rear front construction and troop disposition.

By a decree of the head of state, Major General Giorgiy Vashakidze has been appointed deputy defense minister of the Republic of Georgia.

By a decree of the head of state, Maj. Gen. Boris Ivanov has been appointed head of the Army Service Department [sajariso samsakhuris gankopileba] of the General Staff of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Georgia.

Abkhaz Foreign Ministry Against 'Mass' Return of Refugees

LD2206181494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Any mass return of Georgian refugees to Abkhazia during the peacekeeping operation in the region will be unacceptable, the Abkhazian foreign ministry said in a statement on Wednesday. It said the measure would be enforced on a case-by-case basis in keeping with the program adopted by the four- party commission.

The commission, now into a second day of work at the Black Sea city of Sochi, involves representatives of Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia and the United Nations. The timing and procedure of repatriating the refugees and displaced persons dominates its agenda.

The ministry has spoken against any attempt to try to link the deployment of Russian peacekeepers in the region with the repatriation issue.

New 'United Republican Party' Outlines Priorities

AU2206133494 Tbilisi 7 DGHE in Georgian 14-20 Jun 94 p 1, 2

[Zaza Tsuladze article: "The Ice Has Begun To Break"]

[Text] **On 13 June, at the headquarters of the Georgian Popular Front, three of the country's solid political organizations—the Popular Front, "Charter-91," and the Republican Party—signed an agreement on the creation of one political organization—the United Republican Party of Georgia.**

With the signing of this agreement an important process has begun: The amalgamation of political parties in Georgia, something that was unavoidable but has been long delayed in Georgia. In accordance with the agreement, until the constituent congress is convened, the party's provisional leading body is to be the Political Council (composed of 13 members) that will be run by mutual agreement prior to the adoption of the party's rules. The Political Council is empowered to adopt a decision on any issue relating to the party's activities provided it has the support of more than half of the members. The work of the Political Council is to be presided over by three cochairmen, all of whom have equal rights: Nodar Natadze (Popular Front), Tedo Paatashvili ("Charter- 91"), and Vakhtang Dzabiradze (Republican Party). The party will operate as one faction in the Republic of Georgia Parliament.

At the meeting, the cochairmen of the United Republican Party of Georgia signed the party's political declaration that stipulates the speediest resolution of the following problems during this fateful time for Georgia:

1. To restore the united national consciousness of the Georgian nation and reattach the nation's dismembered limbs.

2. To determine correctly Georgia's historical and state function in the Caucasian region at the border between Asia and Europe and elaborate a nation-state doctrine as the basis for the state's official strategic political course.

3. To restore Georgia's territorial integrity and extend the Georgian state's jurisdiction throughout its entire territory.

4. To restore and elaborate in reality the sovereignty of the Georgian state and steadfastly defend the trend toward its growth and consolidation.

5. To transform real and not imaginary parliamentary government into the primary guarantee of the country's democratic development.

6. To conduct without delay structural and legislative reform pertaining to the political and economic management of the state.

7. The state is to ensure that the minimum social needs of citizens are satisfied in a just manner and their lives, dignity, and rights are legally protected.

In the near future, the United Republican Party of Georgia plans to present a concrete program covering all the aforementioned problems to Parliament and society. The party believes that Georgia has the spiritual, cultural and historical, intellectual, political, and natural or human potential to enable the country to avoid a complete nation-state catastrophe. At the same time, the party views the use of force to resolve problems as the most serious crime against the country's integrity.

Those present at the meeting observed a minute's silence in memory of those Georgian guardsmen who were slaughtered in Gori on 13 June 1992.

The crowded meeting ended with a dinner.

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